

JUNE 2, 1992 VOL. 166, NO. 22

FOR THE RECORD

SBC preview: Masonry & homosexuality hot topics

Born again

After a mysterious death, Mt. Beulah Baptist Church in Martin County has been brought back to life and given a new facility. See page 3.

Editorial

With two conservative candidates and one independent in the running, this year's race for SBC president has taken on a different tone. See page 5.

New president

Larry Barton was named president of Western Baptist Hospital last week. See page 10.

Cultural exchange

Religious leaders from Kazakhstan talked about changes in the former Soviet republic during a two-week visit to Kentucky. See page 13.

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

INDIANAPOLIS—After 13 years of fighting about the inspiration of the Bible, Southern Baptists are poised this month to delve into how the Bible ought to influence the actions of churches and their members.

How churches relate to homosexuals and how church members relate to Masonic lodges are the two most notable issues likely to be debated by messengers to this year's Southern Baptist Convention. The annual meeting is set for the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis June 9-11.

Here's a look at those and other issues slated for discussion:

■ **Homosexuality.** Some action intended to exclude from fellowship any church affirming a homosexual lifestyle is likely to be debated.

Precisely what form such a motion might take is unclear. The motion—or several motions—could come from the floor or could be offered by the SBC Executive Committee.

In late May, members of the Executive Committee were being polled by mail on the wording of one possible motion proposed by the committee's bylaws workgroup. The issue was referred to that workgroup at the Exec-

utive Committee's February meeting in Nashville.

Both the full Executive Committee and the bylaws workgroup will meet in Indianapolis June 8, the day before the SBC convenes. If some motion is worked out to be presented from that body, insiders said, it could pre-empt motions from the floor that might be even more harsh or reactionary.

Homosexuality has been the center of attention among Southern Baptists nationwide since two North Carolina churches took separate actions this spring—one blessing the "union" of two homosexual men; the other ordaining a homosexual divinity student to the ministry.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina last month cut its ties with Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh and Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill over the issue. Pullen was disfellowshipped by Raleigh Baptist Association earlier this year. Binkley has not been in-

volved in any Baptist association for several years.

In February, the SBC Executive Committee passed a resolution critical of the two churches' actions, which were under consideration but not finalized at the time.

■ **Freemasonry.** Southern Baptists have skirted the issue of Freemasonry for several years, but the simmering debate is likely to come to a head this year in Indianapolis.

James "Larry" Holly of Beaumont, Texas, has mailed a packet of information about Freemasonry to 5,000 SBC leaders and plans to distribute 5,000 additional copies to messengers in Indianapolis, according to a Baptist Press report.

Holly has called for the SBC to take a stand against Masonic lodges, which he calls "a spiritually devastating and ungodly brotherhood of satanic darkness." His mailing says a motion will be made in Indianapolis to appoint an ad-hoc committee "to

study the Masonic lodge and report back to the convention in 1993 with a recommendation for action."

Two previous motions referred to the Home Mission Board—in 1985 and 1991—resulted in no action. Trustees twice have replied that a study of Freemasonry is not within the assigned responsibilities of the HMB's interfaith witness department.

In the HMB's report to this year's convention, trustees will refer the issue back to the convention for action.

The issue is sure to generate debate because many Southern Baptist pastors and laymen are Masons.

■ **Baptist Joint Committee.** The final thread tying the SBC to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs could be cut this year if messengers approve a recommendation of the SBC Executive Committee.

The SBC's longstanding relationship with this religious liberty coalition based in Washington, D.C., has been a thorn in the flesh of SBC conservatives for several years. In actions the past two years, SBC messengers have cut funding for the Joint Committee and given a new religious liberty assignment to the SBC Christian Life Commission.

If approved, a recommendation

□ See SBC preview ..., page 2

SBC INDIANAPOLIS

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Mom & 2 kids make missions a family affair

By Marv Knox
Editor

LEXINGTON—Pam, Shawna and Shad Baker never have been apart for more than a week. But their commitment to missions is bringing an end to all that.

■ Son Shad leaves June 4 for Vernal, Utah. He will work with First Baptist Church—leading the youth, conducting vacation Bible schools and backyard Bible clubs, and "maybe in some way helping with their outreach to the Mormon population." He won't get home until Aug. 15.

■ Daughter Shawna departs June 9 for southern Oregon. She will work with the Northwest Baptist Convention—traveling the region to conduct backyard Bible clubs, vacation Bible schools and "maybe a week of camp." She'll join her brother back in Lexington Aug. 15.

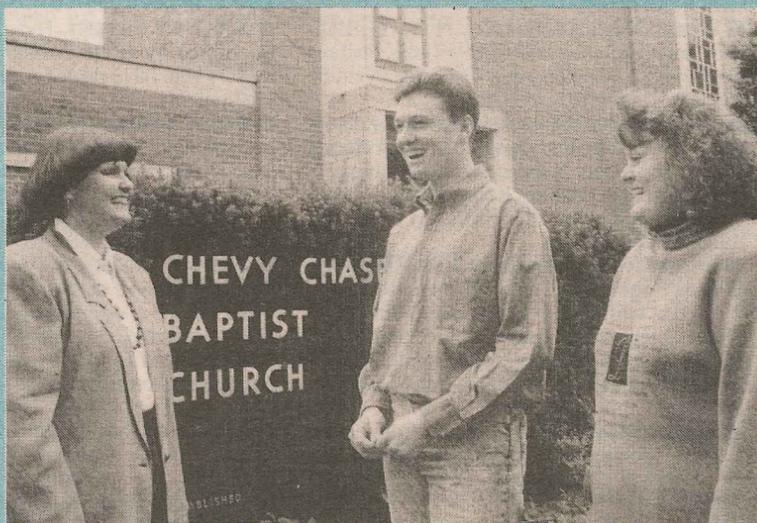
■ Mom Pam will be at the airport to greet them. Then, five days later, she will leave for Espirito Santo, Brazil, where she'll be part of a Kentucky/Brazilian Baptist medical missions partnership.

Their summer afield will provide a break from their close-knit academic routine at the University of Kentucky.

Pam graduated this spring with a nursing degree. Shawna is a senior, majoring in middle school education. Shad is a junior biology major.

But this summer, they're missionaries. They'll almost need an atlas to keep up with each other.

Still, they don't think an entire



MISSIONS FAMILY Pam, Shad and Shawna Baker, all members of Chevy Chase Baptist Church in Lexington, are making missions a family affair this summer. All three have been students at the University of Kentucky.

family involved in volunteer missions is anything exceptional.

"It's a natural progression for us," says Pam. "We've been involved in vacation Bible schools and church missions. This was the one thing we hadn't done."

Their path toward this summer's mission work began in the mountains of eastern Kentucky. They lived in Hazard, where Pam was a single mother raising two kids, earning three associate's degrees from Hazard Community College and attending Petrey Memorial Baptist Church.

"We come from small church with a big heart for missions," Pam says.

When Shad finished high school,

they moved to Lexington so all of them could attend UK.

Soon, they found Chevy Chase Baptist Church, a congregation that works with Pastor Mike Rogers to take on a variety of mission projects. They also connected with other missions groups: Shawna and Shad went to Baptist Student Union, and Pam joined the Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

They heard missions sermons, participated in local missions activities, and met career and summer missionaries. As they looked toward this summer, they were bound to split up for their own mission fields.

"I would've had problems with the Lord if I hadn't done it," Shawna says. "I knew I should volunteer."

□ See Missions becomes ..., page 10

Carter calls graduates to help the poor

By Marv Knox
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Jesus still wants Christians to minister to society's poorest people, former President Jimmy Carter told Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's graduating class May 22.

Carter, who identified himself as "a lifetime Baptist and Sunday school teacher since I was 18 years old," echoed Jesus' command to minister to "the least of these." Such a ministry may be the only way to heal his troubled denomination, he added.

"The main discrimination that afflicts us, and indeed the world today, is the discrimination of the rich people against poor people," Carter said, receiving sustained applause.

"Who are rich people?" he countered. "Everyone in this room is a rich person. A rich person is one who has a home, who knows family, who has a modicum of education, a decent chance for a job, enough to eat, some degree of healthcare, some hope for the future, who believes the police are on your side and if you make a decision it will make a difference."

Poor people live in far-away places, but they also live "right next door to us," he stressed.

"The life of Christ was devoted to eliminating discrimination. That's what the church should remember," Carter said.

Unfortunately, churches are not taking the lead in eliminating poverty, □ See Carter urges ..., page 11

BAPTISTS

SBC preview: Masonry & homosexuality hot topics

Continued from page 1

from the Executive Committee this year would sever all ties between the SBC and the Joint Committee but allow the CLC to relate to the Joint Committee "in any manner it may deem appropriate."

However, a more controversial recommendation concerns allocation of a \$300,000 account held by the Southern Baptist Foundation. The funds were set aside in 1964—but never used—to help purchase a building for the Joint Committee.

Last fall both the Joint Committee and the CLC attempted to retrieve the principal from the fund.

The Foundation asked the Executive Committee what to do.

In February, the Executive Committee voted to give the Joint Committee any interest earned on the account that had not already been distributed. It also approved a recommendation that the convention authorize the Executive Committee to reallocate the principal amount "to convention causes as the Executive Committee deems appropriate."

■ **Pressler nomination.** At least one challenge to the report of the committee on nominations is likely.

The committee has nominated Houston Judge Paul Pressler to serve as a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board. Several high-profile leaders of the conservative movement in the SBC have asked Pressler to decline the nomination, but so far he has shown no inclination to do so.

Pressler, the most prominent architect of the conservative movement's rise to power, recently rotated off the powerful SBC Executive Committee. Critics argue making him an FMB trustee so quickly violates the conservatives' promise to "broaden the tent" of SBC leadership.

Conservative leaders such as SBC President Morris Chapman and Sunday School Board President Jimmy Draper have said they oppose Pressler's nomination in principle but would not take the issue to the floor of the convention. Other Baptists, however, appear willing to make a substitute nomination at the convention.

■ **Accreditation of schools.** The SBC Education Commission will present four recommendations that originated in its accreditation task force.

The recommendations call on SBC agencies and institutions to provide better training for trustees and to understand their governing documents and how to enact changes in keeping with them. They also call on the SBC to affirm trustees and administrators

of the six SBC seminaries.

Many of the issues addressed either directly or indirectly by the motions arose out of conflicts at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, which has undergone significant transition in recent years.

However, the Education Commission will reaffirm its 1991 report that there is no need to establish an independent Southern Baptist accrediting agency. That recommendation may not be received well by some SBC conservatives who are upset about Southeastern's problems with existing accreditation agencies.

■ **Relationship to WMU.** The SBC Executive Committee will recommend adoption of revisions in the program statement of Woman's Missionary Union, which functions as an auxiliary to the SBC.

Among the revisions is a statement that WMU should work with "churches of the Southern Baptist Convention." That addition apparently is intended to discourage WMU from supporting mission endeavors of SBC splinter groups such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

At its June 8 meeting, the Executive Committee will consider whether to proceed with a motion that would ask WMU to become an agency of the SBC. That issue could be brought to the convention floor for consideration. Some Executive Committee mem-

bers would like to bring WMU under the control of the SBC's new conservative leadership. However, WMU leaders have said they would decline any invitation to give up their auxiliary status.

■ **Decreased CP budget.** Messengers will consider a proposed \$140.2 million Cooperative Program budget for 1992-93. That total is a \$509,887 (0.36 percent) decrease from the current fiscal year.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified budget to fund foreign and home missions, six seminaries and other SBC agencies.

■ **Resolutions.** Messengers also will consider resolutions proposed by the convention's resolutions committee.

Committee Chairman Al Mohler of Georgia, interviewed two weeks prior to the SBC's opening day, declined to comment on the nature of resolutions the committee has received in advance.

"We're already receiving resolutions covering a wide range of issues, most of them reflected in the events and issues current among Southern Baptists," he said.

Mohler confirmed he has received resolutions related to the homosexuality issue but would not "prejudge the committee" by speculating what kind of resolution might ultimately be presented.

SBC

INDIANAPOLIS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SBC

This calendar gives highlights of SBC-related events. For details of each listing, contact the appropriate organization's leadership. All events are in Indianapolis unless noted.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

- **Crossover Indianapolis.** An evangelistic blitz using volunteers who arrive early in the host city. For information, call (317) 636-7121.
- **Southern Seminary Alumni Homecoming.** 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Louisville campus. Events include a seminary fair, conversations with former and current faculty, a town meeting with President Roy Honeycutt and a faculty appreciation service.
- **Research Fellowship.** Holiday Inn Union Station. 12:30 p.m. Presentations on research about American Protestantism, Southern Baptist perceptions of quality ministry, churches and church members in the United States and marginal church members. Contact (214) 828-5138.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

- **Southern Seminary Alumni Worship.** Conclusion of homecoming festivities. Alumni Chapel on Louisville campus. 9 a.m.
- **Hispanic Ministers' Conference.** 6:30 p.m. Chapelwood Baptist Church. Speakers include two of the three candidates for SBC president, Nelson Price and Ed Young, as well as evangelist Rudy Hernandez, Illinois pastor Samuel Gonzalez, California pastor Yamile Fernandez and Henry Blackaby, director of prayer and spiritual awakening with the Home Mission Board.
- **Conference of Associational Directors of Missions.** Holiday Inn North. Worship at 10 a.m. with Larry Martin of Boston and Jim Herrington of Houston. Afternoon session at 1 p.m. includes presentation on volunteerism by Reginald McDonough of Virginia. Kentuckians participating include David Aker of Somerset and Allen West of Louisville. Banquet at 6:30 p.m.

- with Keith Parks.
- **Church Music Conference.** Northside Baptist Church. Afternoon session at 1 p.m. features concert by Louisville Area Children's Choirs. Evening session at 6:15 p.m.
- **Religious Education Association.** Adam's Mark Hotel. First session at 2 p.m. with church growth consultant Keener Pharr. Evening session at 6:45 p.m. features Ken Hemphill, church growth director with Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board.
- **Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting.** Indiana Convention Center. Opening session at 2:30 p.m. will feature theme interpretation by Silent Touch, a deaf praise and worship group from Louisville, and presentation of the National Acteens Panelists, including Amy Goode of Prospect. Evening session at 7 p.m.
- **Pastors' Conference.** Indiana Convention Center. Opening session at 6 p.m. features Billy Hybels of Chicago and Adrian Rogers of Memphis.

MONDAY, JUNE 8

- **Conference of Associational Directors of Missions.** Holiday Inn North. Morning session at 8:15 a.m. Luncheon at 12:45 hosted by Annuity Board.
- **Church Music Conference.** Northside Baptist Church. Morning session at 8:30 a.m. Afternoon session and special-interest conferences at 1:30 p.m. Evening session at 6:45 p.m. features Southern Seminary Wind Ensemble and Kentucky Baptist Chorale.
- **Religious Education Association.** Adam's Mark Hotel. Sessions at 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- **African American Fellowship.** Holiday Inn Union Station. 11:45 a.m. This is the group's organizational meeting. Program features recognition of Emmanuel McCall, longtime director of black church relations with the Home Mission Board.
- **New Work Fellowship.** Hyatt Regency. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Keynote speaker is George Hunter, dean and professor of evangelism and church growth at Asbury Theological Semi-

- nary. Call (800) 395-5102, ext. 333.
- **New Work Banquet.** Hyatt Regency. 6 p.m. Sponsored by Home Mission Board to honor leaders who have started new churches. By invitation only.
- **Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting.** Indiana Convention Center. Sessions at 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Evening session features message by Keith Parks and presentations to Park and his wife upon their retirement from the Foreign Mission Board.
- **Pastors' Conference.** Indiana Convention Center. Morning session at 8:30 a.m. features Mike Hamlet of Spartanburg, S.C., James Merritt of Snellville, Ga., Larry Thompson of Mobile, Ala., and Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla. Afternoon session at 1:15 p.m. features Jay Strack of Dallas, Fred Lowery of Bossier City, La., Joseph Stowell of Chicago and Joel Gregory of Dallas. Evening session at 6:10 p.m. features Kenneth Cooper of Dallas, Ed Young of Houston and Tony Evans of Dallas.
- **Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors Meeting.** Fort Benjamin Harrison. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. For reservations, call (404) 898-7440.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

- **Southern Baptist Convention.** Hoosier Dome. Opening session at 8:15 a.m. Highlights: Addresses by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle and SBC President Morris Chapman.
- **Ministers' Wives Luncheon.** Hyatt Regency. 12:15 p.m. Speaker is Deanna McClary, vocalist, author and former model from Pauley's Island, S.C. Remaining tickets are \$19 at the door.
- **Southern Baptist Convention.** Afternoon session at 1 p.m. Highlights: Business, election of officers, committee on nominations report, music by Bill Gaither and the Gaither Vocal Band.
- **Southern Baptist Convention.** Evening session at 6:30 p.m. Highlight: Home Mission Board report.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

- **National Brotherhood Breakfast.** Hyatt Regency. 7 a.m. Brotherhood Commission President James Williams will speak. Numerous awards will be given, including a posthumous presentation of the Award of Merit to the family of Eddie Iglehart, who served for 30 years as an Royal Ambassador counselor at Glenville Baptist Church in Utica.
- **Southern Baptist Convention.** Morning session at 8:30 a.m. Highlights: Southern Seminary report, business, convention sermon by Lewis Drummond.
- **Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists.** Hoosier Dome Hall D. 1:15 p.m. Speakers include Scott Camp of Del City, Okla., Lee Pitts of Gadsden, Ala., Kelly Green of Mobile, Ala., and Angel Martinez of Fort Smith, Ark.
- **Golden Gate Seminary Alumni Luncheon.** Embassy Suites Hotel. 12:15 p.m. Tickets available in exhibit hall for \$7.
- **Midwestern Seminary Alumni Luncheon.** Embassy Suites Hotel. 12:15 p.m. Tickets available in exhibit hall for \$17.
- **New Orleans Seminary Alumni Luncheon.** Indiana Convention Center White River Ballroom. 12:30 p.m. Tickets available in exhibit hall for \$15.
- **Southeastern Seminar Alumni Luncheon.** Hyatt Regency. 1 p.m. Tickets available in exhibit hall for \$15.
- **Southern Seminary Alumni Luncheon.** Hilton-at-the-Circle. 1 p.m. Distinguished Alumni awards will be given to four people, including Verlin Kruschwitz of Elizabethtown. Tickets available in exhibit hall for \$18.
- **Southwestern Seminary Alumni Luncheon.** Hyatt Regency. 12:15 p.m. Tickets available in exhibit hall for \$17.
- **Southern Baptist Convention.** Evening session at 6:15 p.m. Highlights: Business, Foreign Mission Board report.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- **Southern Baptist Convention.** Final session at 8:30 a.m. Highlights: Final report of resolutions committee, message by Charles Stanley.

Dead congregation back to life; building dedicated

MARTIN COUNTY—After a great fall, Mt. Beulah Baptist Mission is being put back together again.

A May 17 dedication service of the Mt. Beulah mission facilities proved that Baptist volunteers from three states and a committed pastor could help put the pieces of a broken church back together again.

Ken Forman of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department delivered the dedicatory sermon.

After the service, he said, "God is still in the miracle-working business. A lot of people thought Mt. Beulah couldn't be rebuilt. But here it is."

Mt. Beulah Baptist Church was established in 1911 and by the late 1950s averaged 85 people in Sunday school.

But the church suddenly and mysteriously died out. "How it happened is a question that will go unanswered through eternity," said Joe Blevins, pastor of the mission since 1990.

James Grayson, then pastor of nearby Warfield Baptist Church, be-

came interested in beginning a new work there in 1989 after surveys revealed that 130 people in the area were not attending church but had a Baptist preference.

In December 1989, Warfield Church called Blevins as mission pastor and began efforts to revive the Mt. Beulah church as a mission. When Blevins arrived on the scene, it was to a name and a piece of land, but without a congregation or any facilities in which to meet.

With a \$5,000 gift from the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 1990, construction was begun. The site was cleared and a cement slab was poured.

In September of that year, builder John Samsil of Paducah brought a team of volunteers to put up the frame and roof of the building. A month later, Samsil returned with a group from Gowensville Baptist Church in South Carolina to add drywall, exterior siding, windows and doors. Three weeks later, still others came to help Samsil with the plumbing.

Blevins ran the electrical wiring

himself. A group from First Baptist Church in Paintsville and Lancer Baptist Church in Prestonsburg did the outside trim and painting of the building.

By November 1990, enough of the work had been completed that the congregation of nine members began meeting in the building for Sunday school and worship.

In the meantime, a box of vacation Bible school material was received from First Baptist Church in Ellerbe, N.C. A contact to thank the church for its generosity resulted in more volunteer labor.

Marshall Ussery, a retired 73-year-old deacon at First Baptist Church in Ellerbe, became the "driving force of the entire project" from that point on, Blevins said.

Through Ussery's efforts, the mission received money for a gas furnace and carpet. In the spring of 1991, Ussery began making frequent trips to Kentucky, each time bringing other volunteers with him.

The groups finished minor work

on the church building and then began on a parsonage, which was completed by October 1991.

Jim Smith, director of missions for Enterprise Baptist Association, followed the work closely. "The association has been very involved," he said, noting the additional volunteer labor from the mission's immediate community.

Smith led the dedication service, attended by 60 people. After recognizing all who contributed to the rebuilding of the mission, he said, "This was a cooperative effort—all working together for the glory of God."

Thanks to that cooperative effort, Blevins said, he hopes to build a strong congregation of Christians.

"I'm very glad the rebuilding of the church was accomplished, that we've come this far," he said. "I'd just like to see [the mission] become a church. It won't happen overnight, but it definitely has the potential."

Written by Staff Writer Melanie Childers with additional reporting by Polly Ward.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Glen Menshouse** of Ashland received the master of divinity degree with languages from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

■ **Edith Garcia** of Bowling Green received the master of arts in Christian education degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.



■ **Gov. Brereton Jones** attended a luncheon at Cumberland College May 18 and congratulated the Baptist school for being named one of President George Bush's Thousand Points of Light. "You are one of the best private colleges in the nation," Jones said.

■ **Campbellsville College** is offering a summer honors program for high school sophomores and juniors who want to get a head start on their college education. Both four-week and eight-week classes are offered. For information, call (502) 789-5218.

■ **Fordsville Baptist Church** did not get its name from the Ford car, as implied in the May 19 issue of the Recorder, reports Edith Freer of Fordsville. The town and church are named after Elisha Ford, ancestors of Sen. Wendell Ford.

Baptist keepsakes are for giving, daughter decides

CUMBERLAND—Pat McCubbin is giving away her keepsakes.

After her father's death last summer, McCubbin discovered among family heirlooms some church histories, a pastor's book collection and a 53-year-old church gift she knew Baptists would cherish and use.

McCubbin is proud of her rich Baptist heritage. "We're Baptist from the word go," she said. "My grandfather was the first Home Mission Board member to go to the Manchester area to help start churches there."

Gifford Walters, McCubbin's father, was a pastor who also helped establish the Pine Mountain Association and later served in Monticello as di-

rector of missions for the Wayne County Baptist Association.

"My father was a historian by nature and a pastor by calling," McCubbin said. "He loved history and he helped lots of churches write their histories."

McCubbin discovered much of that work last fall, and delivered the church histories to Doris Yeiser, a friend of the family and also the archivist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

McCubbin also made a trip to Clear Creek Baptist Bible College to donate books from her father's library for the school to use.

But the treasure McCubbin found

hardest to give up was a quilt given to her mother 53 years ago by the women of Cumberland Missionary Baptist Church.

McCubbin said it was tradition at the church to give a "president's quilt" to the church's Woman's Missionary Union president each year. Her mother, Anna May Walters, was asked to be WMU president soon after the family moved there in 1938.

The 72-by-72-inch quilt was presented to Mrs. Walters at Christmas in 1939. "Each woman embroidered her name on the block she pieced," McCubbin explained. "They had a dinner on the grounds sometime in the summer at a member's home and quilted the quilt."

Mrs. Walters kept her quilt tucked away all those years, McCubbin said. "She treasured it so, she didn't use it."

Though McCubbin moved away from Cumberland long ago, she said she still has strong ties with the church where she grew up.

She decided to contact her childhood friend, Mary Lou Yaden, who is still a member of Cumberland Mis-

sionary Baptist Church, to ask if she thought the church might want the quilt.

Yaden, who is also president of the Pine Mountain Baptist Women's Association, said the church members were "tickled to death" to receive the quilt. She asked McCubbin to come to Cumberland and present the quilt to the church during an associational meeting.

"Most of us who are members here now grew up with that family. I was saved as a little girl under [Walter's] ministry. He baptized me and my husband, and later he married us. The whole family has always been special to us, and having their quilt means something extra-special," Yaden said.

"Only a few of the ladies whose names are on the quilt are still with us," Yaden said of her church's changing membership. "But the names are familiar to us as family members and as church family members."

The church has voted to encase the quilt and hang it in the vestibule, McCubbin said.

Athletes arrive morning after prom to hear UK coach speak at church

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

CECILIA—Even though prom was the night before, more than 40 members of the boys' football team and boys' and girls' basketball teams at Central Hardin High School showed up for an 8:30 a.m. breakfast at Cecilia Baptist Church on a recent Sunday.

And none of them were members of the church.

They came for a special day honoring them at the church and to hear University of Kentucky football coach Bill Curry at the Sunday morning worship service.

"When we planned it, we didn't realize it would be the morning after the prom," said church member Barry Birdwhistle. "They really made a special effort."

Church members began arriving about 6:30 a.m. to make biscuits, scramble eggs, and fry bacon and sausage.

Tim Gott, faculty adviser for

the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at the high school, spoke to a combined youth Sunday school. Then Curry answered questions from the youths.

"If you want to be a successful human being, you can do it," Curry said. "If you've got a tough situation at home, I'm sorry it's that way. But you can overcome it if you will."

One person asked the coach how he holds on to Christian beliefs in his pressure-packed life.

"I'd not survive without them," he replied. "Christ gives me a sense of mission and purpose. Football can be mean and cruel, but the gospel gives me perspective."

Worshippers filled the church's new sanctuary for the 11 a.m. service where Curry encouraged them to choose how they will respond to adversity. He quoted the Beatitudes from memory, calling the sermon of Jesus "the greatest speech of all time."



MEMORABLE QUILT Displaying the "president's quilt" given to Anna May Walters in 1938 are Florence Duckworth, Mary Lou Yaden, Pat McCubbin and Cara Yaden.

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Earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.—Jude 3

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Put away fear; dig out compassion

When a jury acquitted four white officers of police brutality in the beating of black motorist Rodney King, the people of Los Angeles held their breath, waiting for the other shoe to drop.

They didn't have to wait long. Rioters took to the streets, smashing, burning and looting.

Now, people are asking themselves, "What was that all about?"

One popular theory is that the rioting was a demand for justice from a racially disenfranchised underclass that couldn't make itself heard any other way. This reasoning grants a false nobility to the looters. It also ignores the fact many rioters were white.

If the rioters think they've forced America to confront racial injustice, they're in for a rude awakening. Watching the chaos of Los Angeles on their TV screens, America's power-holders didn't say to themselves, "We need more justice." They said,

"We need more cops."

For the record, I'm not a huge supporter of the LAPD. They were whaling on peaceful pro-life demonstrators long before they stopped Rodney King.

I also know about racial injustice in America. Privileges white people take for granted are denied to others.

Yet if our response to the recent events in Los Angeles is merely a frenzy of white guilt, we're missing the point.

We can't afford to reduce the events in Los Angeles to a simple, "It's whitey's fault." For one thing, whitey doesn't buy it. While black leaders point to institutional racism and lingering white hostility as root causes of today's problems, others point to a welfare system that encourages dependency and despair, and to broken homes which fail to teach responsibility and respect for authority.

There's some truth on both sides. But both viewpoints make the mistake

of trying to fix the blame, rather than the problem. It's time we stopped pointing fingers and started extending our hands.

The Los Angeles riots showed us that America's inner-cities are time bombs, slowly ticking away. What the inner-city has is poverty and hopelessness. What it needs is Jesus.

If Jesus were here today, what do you suppose he'd be doing? Teaching at an adult literacy workshop? Volunteering at a food shelf? Running a youth basketball league? Founding a jobs training program? Being a friend to the friendless? Living in the neighborhoods that needed him most? Bringing light to a world of darkness?

I've got news, folks. Jesus Christ is here today. The phrase "body of Christ" is more than a metaphor. It's a calling. Let's put away our fear and dig out our compassion.

*Doug Trouten, director
Evangelical Press News Service
Minneapolis*

Remember us

We, like many others, suffer from the disease of infertility. We need medical help to have children. Will you remember us and forget not?

In Genesis, the Bible tells us how God set up the first family. Later, the experience of Sarai and Abram tells us about the pain of the disease of infertility. Genesis is a pro-family book dealing with a family health issue that is real today.

Roughly 2.4 million U.S. married couples—8.5 percent of couples in their childbearing years—are infertile.

A recent court finding in Iowa has stipulated that infertility is a disease requiring treatment and that not providing infertility coverage is discrimination. It seems unfair that infertile couples help to subsidize the pregnancies and birth control of fertile couples through our premiums, yet we cannot get comparable coverage for infertility. This seems discriminatory.

BAPTIST FORUM

Kentucky needs a family-building act. Such a bill would be a step in the right direction for families. Illinois, Massachusetts and Rhode Island cover all infertility treatment. Many other states are considering similar legislation. This would exempt businesses with fewer than 20 employees.

I am a Baptist and have pastored four churches. Religious institutions that may object to particular forms of

treatment for infertility need not offer coverage for such treatment. I close

with the words of I Samuel 1:11 from the prayer of Hannah: "And remember me and forget not." Let us work together for strong families in Kentucky and the passage of a family-building bill.

*David & Carol Fletcher
Mayfield*

Public relations

If the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is looking for a public relations

director to espouse their cause, they need look no further than the Western Recorder.

I find five articles on the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in the May 5 issue of the Western Recorder. I doubt seriously if there will be that many articles on the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Indianapolis, unless it is about some juicy controversy that may arise.

I, for one, resent our Baptist state paper being used to publish the program and promote the causes of a reactionary organization who's (not so) hidden agenda is the dismantling of the Cooperative Program and the discrediting of the whole world-wide mission program of the Southern Baptist Convention. These people have a perfect right to form a convention, to raise money or support missions as they feel missions should be done; but it is not the responsibility of our state Baptist paper to advertise their cause.

*Hayward R. Casey, pastor
Browder Baptist Church
Browder*

Never underestimate women

"When the Southern Baptist Convention was organized in 1845, several female missionary societies, operating under various names, were functioning in Kentucky," writes Dixie Mylum in her volume celebrating the centennial of Woman's Missionary Union in Kentucky.

Such societies were further encouraged during the 1840 annual meeting of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky. Mylum quotes from a report presented at that meeting: "... it could also result in great good to have organized, as far as practicable, Female Auxiliary Societies; for experience has proven that in the works of benevolence, the female's hand knows no miser's grip but moves in obedience to the generous

impulses of a female's heart."

By May, 1878, the Southern Baptist Convention recommended: "that the Foreign and Home Boards of our convention organize central committees of women in each state represented in that body." And, Mylum writes, "it was in response to this recommendation that the Kentucky Baptist Committee was organized in the fall of 1878."

From this date Kentucky's Woman's Missionary Union traces its formal beginnings, older by nine years than the similar beginning date for Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

From those early years, Woman's Missionary Union "was the first and remains the largest body of organized laypersons

in the SBC." And many of us would agree that it is the most influential organization in state and national Baptist life. Its contribution to ministry in our denominational life is enormous. According to Catherine Allen's history of WMU, it played a key role in beginning the following:

- Student ministries on college campuses.
- Vacation Bible school.
- Theological education for women.
- Professional training for religious education.
- Professional training for missionary service.
- Opening the door for women to serve in church-related vocations.
- Promotion of tithing in SBC experience.
- Emphasis on systematic giving.
- First blacks on professional staffs.
- Camping as means of religious education.

Sports & religion: What's the news?

The media would lead us to think that sports events dominate American life and that religion is relatively unimportant. Final Four, NBA playoffs and the beginning of baseball season notwithstanding, this is a false perception.

George Cornell, religion writer for the Associated Press, worked out these comparisons: "In 1980, sports attendance totalled 356 million. That includes both professional and college football, baseball, basketball, and hockey—both major and minor leagues—plus auto racing, soccer, tennis, boxing, flat and harness racing, and even dog racing. Attendance at churches and synagogues was 13 times greater, totalling 4.7 billion."

More Americans attended worship services in a single month than attended any sports event in the entire year.

Gate receipts from professional football, baseball and basketball in 1980 totalled \$423 million. Giving to religion for the same period totalled \$22.1 billion, or 51 times what the three major sports took in.

People invested 13 times more of their hours and 51 times more of their money in religion than in sports.

That's not the impression you get in the media, where sports dominates and where religion gets meager exposure and the exposure it gets is of quality far beneath what people get in their local congregational life.

Those figures are 10 years old, but I think the proportions would still hold true today. It should give us pause. Maybe what we see, especially in the media, is not all there is. The power and place of religion in our lives is quite extraordinary.

*H. Stephen Shoemaker, pastor
Crescent Hill Baptist Church
Louisville*

- Social work ministries in the denomination.
 - Weekday church activities for children.
 - Home and foreign missions offerings.
 - Systematic prayer plan for daily devotions.
 - First church program publications in Spanish.
 - First women speakers at SBC meetings; first woman officer of SBC; first women on SBC committees.
- Woman's Missionary Union may currently be facing the greatest challenge of its organizational life—to remain an effective mission arm within a fragmenting body of Baptists.
- I happen to number among those who believe Woman's Missionary Union will continue to be a major player in the future of missions in Kentucky Baptist life.

William W. Marshall is executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Competing conservatives change nature of SBC race

Competition for the Southern Baptist Convention's highest office has taken on a new tone in 1992.

During the past decade of denominational unrest, typical elections have featured conservative and moderate party standard-bearers jousting for the title. The only notable exceptions were in 1983 and 1991, when moderates declined to field a candidate against strong incumbents.

But this year's open election features two conservatives, no moderates and an unaffiliated outsider.

The outsider—Californian Jess Moody—is sure to lose. Sources close to Moody say even he doesn't expect to win, although he may attract the votes of the declining number of moderates who venture to the annual meeting next week.

So, with their common moderate "enemy" out of the way, two conservatives will be left to compete for the high honor.

Although he has denied it, Ed Young of Houston is the conservative party's candidate. He has been mentioned often as a likely president. He long has been identified with the party's elite—Adrian Rogers, Jimmy Draper, Morris Chapman, Jerry Vines and a handful of others. Dallas pastor Joel Gregory all but confirmed this when he announced his desire to nominate Young, noting "some of the fellows" had been talking about the Young candidacy for a while. And Young has a prominent spot on the Monday night SBC Pastors' Conference program, a non-verbal indicator of the party candidate for many of the past 13 years.

The other conservative candidate is Nelson Price of suburban Atlanta. Price is no stranger to the upper echelons of the party—he's the SBC's current first vice president and a former Pastors' Conference president—but he's campaigning on a populist platform. Price has told supporters and potential supporters it's time for a "grassroots" candidate to be elected, and he's the man.

In terms of the old moderate/conservative structure, the election of Price or Young won't make a difference. Both of them have embraced biblical inerrancy. Both of them have endorsed the "conservative resurgence" within the SBC. And while both of them have talked about involving more people in the convention process and reconciling people within the convention, both of them have made it clear they don't mean political moderates.

The emergence of two conservative candidates has raised several interesting issues:

First, the demand for party loyalty no longer is paramount. Conservatives ensured their political victory over the moderates by enforcing par-

ty discipline. They always ran one and only one presidential candidate. Wanna-be candidates had to step aside for the party's choice. But now, at least one candidate and his supporters don't feel such strict party loyalty is necessary. A conservative will win anyway, so why bow out in favor of somebody else's choice?

Second, Price confirmed what a number of observers believed for years—a small number of party leaders chose the next SBC president. He told a New Orleans crowd that "a very small group, proud of the Southern Baptist Convention, chose an individual who would be their candidate for president, and almost inevitably that person won." Price's assertion disputes claims made throughout the '80s that the candidates' decisions to run were made in late-night prayer meetings only hours before the elections were held.

Third, Price's candidacy challenges the party leaders' control of the convention. Price appeals to loyal conservatives who feel they have been left out of the new SBC. Southern Baptists who have worked for the conservatives' cause are far more numerous than the slots on trustee boards and committees. Some of them—like Price, 60—are getting older, and their

time for potential service is running out. The majority of the faithful always will be "left out," and that's a fertile field for seeds of discontent.

Next Tuesday is harvest day. Messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis will choose a new president.

If Young wins by a strong majority, the conservative party's leadership will be affirmed. They have been effective in delivering the convention from the guidance of the moderates. A big Young win will indicate the rank-and-file Southern Baptists who supported their movement approve of what has happened and like their winsome candidate.

If Price wins, or if he loses by a narrow margin, the party leaders will be warned. They have talked of "broadening the tent," and conservative votes for Price will indicate more folks loyal to the new SBC want to be included in the decision-making process.

Besides the conservative party leadership, the next-most-nervous Baptists next week will be the remnant of moderates who dream of recapturing the convention. They would be heartened by a Price victory, hoping disunity among conservatives would give them an opportunity for success. But to win back the SBC, they would have to reclaim the loyalty of moderates who have written off meaningful participation in the national convention.

Their chances of achieving that coup are about as unlikely as Moody defeating Young in a run-off.

Marv Knox

With no moderate candidate left to defeat, conservatives Nelson Price and Ed Young will square off in a contest of conservatives.



Honk if you think missing out on Field Day is a crying shame

Something went wrong with our early-morning soundtrack.

At first, everything sounded fine. Betsy bounced from room to room, dogtags tinkling in jaunty rhythm. Willard Scott peered out from the TV in the kitchen, waxing eloquent about the good looks of old folks with birthdays. A hair dryer hummed from the bathroom. And spring birds chirped out on the lawn.

Then the honking started.

It sounded like a Canadian goose. In Lindsay's bedroom, of all places.

Since Canadian geese aren't known to inhabit this part of Kentucky this time of year, and since we hadn't left Lindsay's window open all night, we ruled out a honking goose.

The sound came from the swollen throat

of an 8-year-old whose eyes looked like she'd been flying all night.

Being sick and being a kid at the same time is bad enough. But being a sick kid on your school's famous Field Day is just about as bad as it gets in second grade.

Listening to that honk, Joanna and I arrived at the same preliminary prognosis: Asthma.

I put Lindsay in front of the freezer compartment of the refrigerator and told her to breathe deeply. Joanna called the pediatrician.

Lindsay knew what day it was, and her tears didn't help the honking one bit. While we waited for the doctor to call back, Lindsay tried to breathe the frigid air.

Meanwhile, she wailed and we gnashed our teeth. No parent likes to see a child suffer, least of all on Field Day.

Kids should be allowed to get sick on rainy days and days when they didn't finish their homework. But not on a day of outdoor

fun, frivola and hand-painted T-shirts. My friend Dan Martin spoke a deep truth

when he wryly observed: "Crises never happen at convenient times."

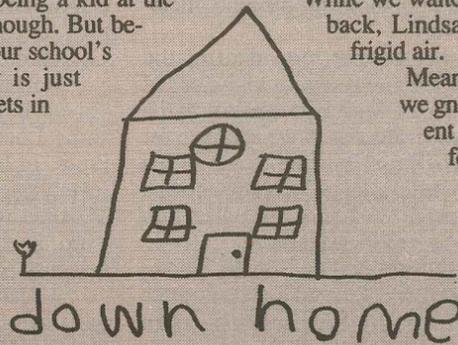
I've known that since first grade, when the flu left a little trick in my bronchial tubes at Halloween. Cough-syrup-for-candy is not an even trade.

Lindsay's honk didn't go away, and she wound up with a rotten deal, too: A trip to the doctor instead of games in the schoolyard.

Dr. Jones said she's got allergies (Welcome to the Ohio Valley, Sugar.), and we all moaned her rotten luck.

She's feeling fine now, and school's out for the summer. Only her Daddy still feels a little rotten, when he realizes this was but one of many bad-timing misfortunes she's bound to face.

Marv Knox



Report will cite Southeastern's accreditation woes

By Mark Wingfield
News Director

INDIANAPOLIS—For the second consecutive year, the Southern Baptist Education Commission will recommend against forming a new Baptist accrediting agency to serve the denomination's seminaries and colleges.

That will be part of the Education Commission's report to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis June 11.

However, three recommendations from the Education Commission to the convention call for better training of seminary trustees, better understanding by trustees and administrators of how to work with a school's governing documents, and renewed emphasis on the Southern Baptist heritage of denominational schools.

A fourth recommendation would affirm trustees and administrators of Southern Baptist seminaries "for their efforts to carry out their mission in a manner consistent with Southern Baptist theological heritage" and for maintaining "a responsible role and relationship" with existing accrediting agencies.

The commission also will report adoption of a resolution last March

that calls on accrediting agencies to "avoid creating pressure or the appearance of pressure designed to affect the theological posture of the educational institutions."

Accreditation procedures have come under increased scrutiny in recent years as Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary has dealt with a threatened loss of accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Southeastern trustees and administrators ran into trouble by attempting to change the way faculty are hired without first changing the school's governing documents.

Leaders of the movement to make Southeastern represent a more conservative theology have charged the accrediting agencies are attempting to keep that change from happening. The accrediting agencies have responded that they are not concerned with theological positions so much as proper governance of accredited schools.

This dispute has prompted some Baptists to call for the creation of a new Southern Baptist accrediting agency. Convention motions to that effect were referred to the Education Commission in 1990 and 1991.

Randy Davenport, retired president of Campbellsville College, has served as chairman of an accreditation task force appointed by the Education Commission.

The task force issued a lengthy report last year, concluding, "the formation of a separate Southern Baptist accrediting agency will not provide the effective mechanism to assure correction of any problems which may be perceived nor to prevent the scrutiny of other accrediting bodies."

With the second referral of a motion at last year's convention, the task force's work was continued, and it began meeting with three members of the SBC Executive Committee who contributed to this year's report.

That report makes specific reference to the conflicts at Southeastern Seminary, on the one hand calling for trustees to be better informed about how to avoid accreditation conflicts but on the other hand praising trustees for acting responsibly in relation to accrediting agencies.

And the resolution adopted by the Education Commission states: "There is a widespread perception that some accrediting agencies have dealt harshly with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and others as a reaction to efforts by trustees to move the sem-

inaries toward a more conservative theological stance; and ... there is a further perception that accrediting agencies try to pressure institutions to adopt a more liberal theological perspective than what most Southern Baptists are comfortable with."

Davenport told the Western Recorder the report does reflect specific concerns related to the North Carolina seminary but also reflects other longstanding concerns of Southern Baptist educators. As the former president of a college affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Davenport said he recalled similar discussions being held 25 years ago. How accrediting agencies deal with Southern Baptist schools has been "an honest concern for years," he said.

Despite the intense interest by some in the accreditation issue, it has not become a widely debated concern among all Southern Baptists. That is evidenced by the placement of the Education Commission's report as the last item of business at this year's convention.

By the time of this report at 10:45 a.m. June 11, many convention messengers will already have gone home. In recent years, some business could not be conducted on the last day due to lack of a quorum.

"The Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention hereby requests the accrediting agencies ... to avoid creating pressure or the appearance of pressure designed to affect the theological posture of the educational institutions."

From a resolution adopted by the SBC Education Commission in March

Holly said he hopes the SBC will recommend that local churches prohibit Masons from serving as pastors or deacons and counsel new members against joining Masons, Eastern Star, Rainbow Girls and DeMolay.

Texas layman takes aim at Freemasonry

NASHVILLE (BP)—A call for the Southern Baptist Convention to take a stand against Masonic lodge membership has been mailed to 5,000 SBC leaders by a Texas physician.

In a May 14 mailing, James "Larry" Holly of Beaumont, Texas, urged SBC leaders to support a motion to be made during the June 9-11 annual meeting in Indianapolis that the convention president appoint "an ad hoc committee to study the Masonic Lodge and to report back to the Convention in 1993 with a recommendation for action."

The mailing includes a 58-page booklet in which Holly sets forth an array of arguments contending Freemasonry is a religion antagonistic to Christianity and of satanic origin.

Masonic lodges in the United States have 3.5 million members, according to the 1992 Encyclopedia Americana. Further, a recent poll by the Southern Baptist Education Commission Board found 14 percent of Southern Baptist pastors are Masons, as are 13 percent of associational directors of missions and 18 percent of church deacon chairmen.

The Sunday School Board poll also found that 37 percent of pastors believe it is "very important" for the SBC to have an official statement on Freemasonry. Only 18 percent said it is "not very important."

Among pastors, 27 percent said they perceive "major conflict" between the tenets of Freemasonry and Christianity but only 5 percent said it has been a major issue in their churches.

As a trustee of the Sunday School Board from 1983-91, Holly was instrumental in calling for the early retirement of President Lloyd Elder.

In addition to the 5,000 copies of

his materials already sent to SBC leaders, another 5,000 copies will be distributed during the SBC in Indianapolis, Holly said.

The issue of Freemasonry has come before the convention two other times.

A motion was made last year in Atlanta for a Scriptural investigation of Freemasonry by the Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department. HMB trustees voted in March to return the motion to the convention, asking instead that messengers to the annual meeting address the issue.

HMB President Larry Lewis said trustees voted against a Freemasonry study because the interfaith witness department studies religions, not Masonry, which is not considered a religion but a fraternal organization according to current HMB definition.

A similar response was given to a motion on Freemasonry referred to the HMB in 1985.

"I personally feel our convention should act on it one way or another," Lewis said. "It's going to plague us forever until there's some kind of closure to it."

Jimmy Draper, president of the Sunday School Board, acknowledged he became a Mason as a pastor in the late 1960s and was lodge chaplain for a year. Draper said he resigned his membership after a Christian who had researched Masonry confronted him with some of its teachings.

Holly said he hopes to be among the members of the ad hoc committee if approved by SBC messengers in Indianapolis.

His booklet lists several actions he hopes the SBC would recommend to local churches, including prohibitions against Masons serving as pastors or deacons, counseling new converts

against membership in a lodge or its affiliated organizations, Eastern Star, a women's organization, Rainbow Girls and, for boys, DeMolay.

But Masonry has its defenders among Southern Baptists. Walter Brookshire, 69-year-old retired Southern Baptist pastor and 32nd degree Mason in Madisonville, Tenn., said he is proud to be in an organization that includes the likes of Norman Vincent Peale.

"Every Mason is told there will be nothing incompatible with his civil or religious duties or those higher or nobler duties which he holds to God, his country, his neighbor, his family or himself," Brookshire said. "I've found that to be true."

Contrary to critics who claim Masonry is a form of universalism and good-works religion, Brookshire said, "I've been taught the other way. I've been taught, 'You go to your church and you be a responsible citizen.'"

Still, at least three denominations have adopted stances against membership in Masonic Lodges: the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Assemblies of God and the Presbyterian Church in America.

"Members of the lodge are involved in an organization that worships Lucifer," Holly told Baptist Press. In his booklet, Holly devotes several pages to matching widely used Masonic writings with Scripture toward his claim that the god of Freemasonry actually is Lucifer.

"We have been valiant to point out the sins of the liberals," Holly said. "Largely, Masonry is a sin of the conservatives among us. Most liberals would be embarrassed and ashamed to do the silly, yet damnable, things which the men and women of the lodge do."

2 more announce as candidates

INDIANAPOLIS—Two more men have announced they will be nominated for positions as officers of the Southern Baptist Convention during the annual meeting in Indianapolis.

Louisiana evangelist Joe Aulds has announced his candidacy for first vice president. Although there are at least three announced candidates for president, Aulds apparently is the first to announce for a vice president's post.

Bob Bender, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ada, Okla., will be nominated to serve as registration secretary. He will vie for the position with current Registration Secretary Lee Porter, who has held the job 15 years.

The SBC registration secretary oversees the credentials and tellers committees as well as the messenger registration process.

Bender, a member of this year's credentials committee, will be nominated by O.S. Hawkins, a former Oklahoma pastor now serving as pastor of First Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

"It's time for a change," Hawkins said, "and to elect someone who will work in cooperation with and support the duly-elected presidents of the SBC."

Porter narrowly survived a challenge last year after he was quoted in the Indiana Baptist as making comments unfavorable toward the new conservative leadership of the SBC.

BAPTISTS

Three-way election slated for presidential ballot

INDIANAPOLIS—Gone are the days of two-candidate, two-party Southern Baptist Convention elections.

Messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis next week will pick a president from three contenders—two insiders from the SBC's conservative coalition and an independent campaigning on a harmony platform.

Barring a last-minute announcement, moderates—who have lost every presidential election they entered since 1979—will not field a candidate.

Nelson Price and Ed Young, both conservative leaders during the past decade, will be on the ballot with independent Jess Moody when the SBC meets in Indianapolis June 9-11.

Incumbent Morris Chapman, who was unopposed for his second one-year term last year and will become president of the SBC Executive Committee in mid-June—is ineligible for re-election.

Moody, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in suburban Los Angeles and the first declared candidate, stepped forward last August.

Moody, 66, said he hopes to bring the convention together in what may be the "last hope for the Southern Baptist Convention."

His primary interests are harmony and evangelism, Moody said: "I'm like an old uncle trying to get the family to stop fighting, shake hands, forget it and get back to work for the sake of the family business. Our business is ministry and missions."

His theme is "a million more in 1994," promoting a million Baptist baptisms worldwide by 1994, Moody said. He also wants to send 1,000 teams of laypeople to the former Soviet Union to teach free enterprise and preach the gospel.

"I believe every word of the Bible," he said. "As far as the Bible goes, I am as conservative as you can get. I also believe in freedom. ... I just want the world won to Jesus Christ."

Moody cited strengths of both the conservative and moderate groups within the SBC. "I'm very proud of the fundamentalists for keeping true to the word of God, and I'm very proud of the moderates for keeping true to Baptist polity," he said. "Without each other, they're going to go to an extreme—either in a legalistic way or only talking about polity. You must have a balance between polity and evangelism. Polity keeps you together; evangelism makes you grow."

Moody also has called for moderates to dismantle their new organizations—such as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Alliance of Baptists—which some observers predict will split the convention.

Moody has been pastor of the California church since 1976. Under his ministry, Shepherd of the Hills Church has been known for its use of the arts to evangelize the Hollywood area.

He has been backed by an ad hoc group of Florida pastors, headed by Don Letzring of Tampa.

A "mushrooming swell" of people believe Moody can win the election, "despite the feeling of some that our

convention is lost to the control of a few," Letzring said in announcing Moody's candidacy.

Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., also emphasized the need for a change from limited control of the SBC.

Price, 60, announced his candidacy in February, citing "a broad base of encouragement from friends across the country" and "grassroots requests" for him to run.

His decision to seek the office was his alone and did not come from a strategy session of conservative leaders, which has picked conservative presidential candidates in recent years, Price said.

While that process was essential during the years of conflict in the SBC, he noted, "this is a new day, when a candidate emerges by grassroots encouragement."

In a speech two months later, he said: "Reputedly for some years a very small group proud of the Southern Baptist Convention chose an individual who would be their candidate for the presidency, and almost inevitably that person emerged as the president. ... Those who did that had for some time said there's got to be a day when we get away from that and it becomes an open convention and persons can be nominated without that individual being chosen in advance of the convention."

Despite his criticism of the limited-selection party process, Price said he is an inerrantist and still claimed his commitment to the "conservative resurgence" in the SBC.

But as an alternative to party-selected candidates, Price said he could "congeal the body, heal wounds and allow the convention to concentrate on carrying out the commission of our Lord."

A Price victory "will prove we (conservatives) are a movement and not a party," he claimed. "Thus we will demonstrate a unique strength and further validate the breadth of our credible cause."

"If we do not do this at some point, we will have fallen into an opposite but equal error as the denominational loyalists/moderates before us, who chose our presidents and whose actions we resented."

Price has been pastor of the Georgia congregation since 1965. Its "Come Alive" television ministry is broadcast on the ACTS network and reaches a national audience.

The announcement of a possible Young candidacy came in February, three days after Price's announcement made the news wires. Joel Gregory, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, said he wanted to nominate Young for the presidency.

But Young, 55, did not agree to be nominated until almost a month later.

"I am just trying to seek the mind and will of God," Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston, said of his delay.

Young's candidacy marks the first time since the start of the conservatives' successful political movement that two conservatives will face off for the presidency.

Asked about that situation, Young said he has the "deepest affection and

respect for Nelson Price. He is a man of great piety and prayer. I do not know what the future brings, but I feel certain that God's will will be done in this matter, although I am not certain how that will evolve.

"What I can say is that I feel a strong leading this year to allow my name to be placed in nomination, whereas in the past the burden God laid on my heart was the opposite—that I should not be nominated."

Young's agenda "is strictly two things—missions and evangelism around this world," he said. His priorities are first God, then his family and then his church, he added.

Christians face an unprecedented opportunity for evangelism and missions, Young said: "We need to set a goal to win a half-million people in 1995 and 1 million in the year 2000 for Jesus Christ. I also would seek to institute a plan whereby specific churches adopt specific programs and by so doing double our foreign and home missionary efforts. People will more willingly sacrifice when they have specific goals and see them accomplished. It is imperative that we do a better job of marketing the Coop-

erative Program," the convention's unified budget.

"I have a strong desire to find a method whereby all Southern Baptists who believe in the truth of God's word, regardless of for whom they voted for president since 1979, can be reconciled with their brethren in such a manner that doctrinal integrity is preserved and our world-wide missions effort is given renewed impetus," he said. "We must get this dispute behind us so that God will pour out his revival on us."

"It's time to put down the guns and go fishing."

Young has been pastor of the church since 1978; it has grown from 4,431 to 18,000 members.

Gregory said he alone decided to nominate Young, but he noted "some of the fellows have talked together" about the Young candidacy over "a period of some months."

Written by Editor Marv Knox, from news reports spanning the past nine months.



JESS MOODY

Age: 66

Connections: SBC Pastors' Conference president, 1965; former Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustee; founding president, Palm Beach Atlantic College.

Shepherd of the Hills stats: Resident members — 4,711 Baptisms — 17

Sunday school attendance — 435
Undesignated receipts — \$991,918
Cooperative Program gifts — \$53,711

Of note: Moody's a minister to Hollywood stars, and he performed the wedding ceremony for Burt Reynolds and Loni Anderson.

To quote: "I'm like an old uncle trying to get the family to stop fighting ... and get back to work for the sake of the family business."



NELSON PRICE

Age: 60

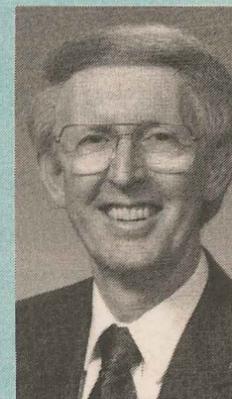
Connections: Current SBC first vice president; SBC Pastors' Conference president, 1987; former New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and SBC Home Mission Board trustee; Georgia Baptist Convention president, 1982-83.

Roswell Street stats: Resident members — 5,771

Baptisms — 172
Sunday school attendance — 2,385
Undesignated receipts — \$3,012,450
Cooperative Program gifts — \$231,250

Of note: Price preached the inaugural sermon for U.S. President Jimmy Carter in 1977.

To quote: "It is my prayer our movement is so strong we no longer need a coalition candidate"



ED YOUNG

Age: 55

Connections: SBC Pastors' Conference president, 1982; former SBC Sunday School Board trustee; SBC Peace Committee member, 1985-87.

Second stats: Resident members — 14,721
Baptisms — 838
Sunday school attendance — 9,309

Undesignated receipts — \$12,345,655
Cooperative Program gifts — \$400,000

Of note: Under Young's leadership, Second Church has been one of the nation's fastest-growing congregations. It built a \$34 million facility in 1984 and recently bought land for a new site 15 miles away.

To quote: "It's time to put down the guns and go fishing."



STUDENTS

Pictured on these pages are the student summer missionaries appointed through the Kentucky Baptist Convention's student department.

These 77 students have been selected and supported through the statewide network of Baptist ministries on 45 Kentucky college campuses. A commissioning service was held for them in April at Georgetown Col-

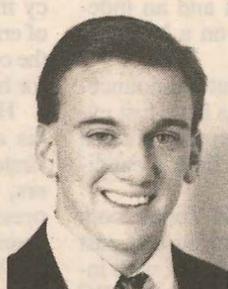
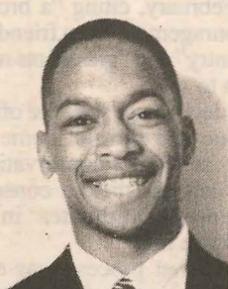
lege.

In all, more than 350 students from Kentucky Baptist Student Unions will serve in some type of ministry this summer. Many of them were commissioned by their individual BSUs. Others are appointed and supported by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and other agencies.

The student missionaries featured on these two pages will serve in a variety of ministries both in the United States and abroad. This group also includes members of the five Son Teams, which will tour the state this summer with expertise in music, drama, revivals, recreation and arts.

Names are listed with campuses and assignments.

Chad Abney
UK, Son Life
Suzanne Alcott
UK, Savannah, Ga.
Mary Baldrige
Berea, Gallup, N.M.
Clayton Barnes
U of L, Son Bound
Curtis Barnes
Campbellsville, Son Burst
Brian Blair
Northern Kentucky, Son Bound



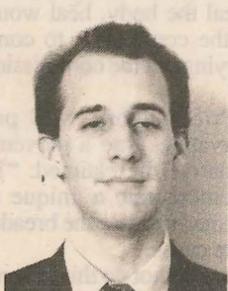
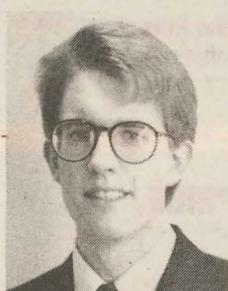
Stacie Brown
Eastern Kentucky, Pike County Assoc.
Phillip Brunner
U of L, Utah Team
Barry Bryant
Alice Lloyd, Liberty Assoc.
David Buckner
U of L, Son Celebration
Chad Caddell
Morehead State, Son Life
Cliff Carlton
Murray State, Camp Joy



Laura Carr
Eastern Kentucky, Son Bound
Becky Castle
Morehead State, Son Praise
Stephanie Childers
U of L, Taiwan
Lisa Clifton
Morehead State, Kazakhstan
John Coffey
Eastern Kentucky, Liberty Assoc.
Billy Colley
Mid-Continent Bible, Brazil



Cherie Cruze
Berea, Son Burst
Paul Curry
Cumberland, Owen Assoc.
LaRaine Dail
Georgetown, Brazil
Christopher Dotson
Georgetown, Chicago
Mei Doughty
Hopkinsville Community, Khazakhstan
Sandra Downard
Jefferson Community, Camp Joy



Lyle Edwards
Western Kentucky, Kazakhstan
Kristi Farmer
Morehead State, Glendale
Paulette Farr
Northern Kentucky, Kazakhstan
Matt Flanagan
Centre, Son Celebration
Mark Gaddis
Berea, Son Share
Kelly Graybeal
Western Kentucky, Glendale



Keith Griesser
Georgetown, Son Celebration
Mildred Hackley
UK, Son Burst
Kimberley Haun
Eastern Kentucky, Spain
Chris Hedges
Morehead State, Son Burst
David Hibbard
UK, Europe
Shannon Houpt
Murray State, Son Praise



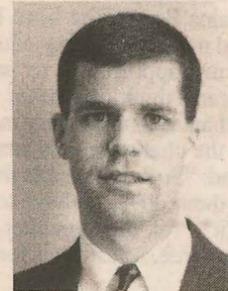
STUDENTS



Angela Hudgin
Murray State, Son Celebration
Leslie Hutchison
Georgetown, Brazil
Darrin Jenkins
Campbellsville, Son Praise
Holly Johnson
Eastern Kentucky, Son Praise
Crystal Joslin
Murray State, Son Share
Phillip Kays
Morehead State, Utah Team



Jon Lucas
Northern Kentucky, Son Celebration
James Lyles
Georgetown, Berlin, N.H.
Pam Maffet
Georgetown, Son Bound
Stephanie Mashburn
Western Kentucky, Brazil
Donny Mathis
UK, Utah Team
Tiffani Merrick
Campbellsville, Son Burst



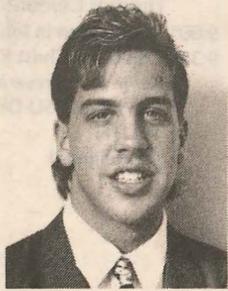
Kristen Minks
Murray State, Greentree, Md.
Deana Mullins
Georgetown, Son Celebration
Tara Nash
Morehead State, Richmond
Jennifer Parks
Spalding, New Orleans, La.
Shannan Peery
Paducah Community, Son Life
Earl Pinkston
Georgetown, Brazil



Mary Prado
Cumberland, Nelson Assoc.
Troy Price
Berea, Detroit
Jeremy Raper
U of L, Salisbury, Md.
Matthew Robertson
U of L, Oak Grove
Sherry Roy
Cumberland, Son Celebration
Michael Sanders
UK, Portland, Or.



Melissa Scott
Western Kentucky, Son Share
Becky Stinnett
Georgetown, Brazil
Ellen Suters
Berea, Nelson Assoc.
Craig Tackett
Georgetown, Muhlenberg Assoc.
Lesley Thomas
Cumberland, Son Share
Eric Thurman
Cumberland, Kazakhstan



Chip Tillett
UK, Son Share
Rob Turner
Northern Kentucky, Son Praise
Joy Wallace
Cumberland, Son Life
Poppy Williams
Cumberland, Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Jason Wilson
UK, Son Life
Shannon Wilson
Morehead State, Jefferson City, Mo.



Mike Wilson
Cumberland, Covington
Todd Wood
Western Kentucky, Son Bound
Jayne Ellen Yahng
U of L, Son Life
Linda Young
Georgetown, Spain
Tara Young
Western Kentucky, Massena, N.Y.

Consultants trained to help churches in 'breakthrough'

By Marv Knox
Editor

LOUISVILLE—A small army of Kentucky Baptists has been trained to help churches across the commonwealth achieve "spiritual breakthrough."

About 100 church and denominational leaders met in Louisville to learn how to be Great Commission Breakthrough consultants.

Great Commission Breakthrough is a project developed by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board to strengthen churches. It is based on

Christ's "great commission" to reach, baptize and train new Christians.

The consultants will work individually with Kentucky churches.

"If we're going to be the churches we ought to be, we've got to rediscover the authority and power of the living Christ," said Chip Miller, director of the Kentucky Baptist Sunday school department, which sponsored the training program.

Churches also must rediscover the non-Christians in their communities, recommit to the Christian journey and remember Christ "will be with us every step of the way," he added.

"Three hundred Kentucky (Baptist) churches didn't baptize anyone last year," he explained. "Many churches do not have any organized training program. And many pastors are very, very low."

Great Commission Breakthrough is designed to turn those churches and healthier churches around, said Gary Insko, a Sunday School Board staff member.

About 2,000 consultants are being trained nationwide "to help churches experience what Christ intended when he commissioned us," Insko said.

Twenty Kentucky Baptist church-

es already participated in a Great Commission Breakthrough pilot project. During that time, those churches experienced increases in baptisms (20.6 percent), Sunday school enrollment (6.8 percent), Sunday school attendance (5.6 percent) and church membership (2.7 percent), he said.

Developers of the project dream of pairing a trained consultant with every church in the convention, said Earl Waldrup, a retired Sunday School Board staff member who wrote the consultants' training manual.

The objective of the project is to help churches grow in their commitment to Christ, attitudes toward ministry, personal relationships and practical programs, Waldrup said.

The Great Commission Breakthrough process—which begins with meetings between the consultant and the pastor and includes a series of churchwide "consultation" meetings and ends with several follow-up visits by the consultant—lasts from nine to 12 months, Insko said.

For more information, contact Chip Miller, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 43433, Middletown, Ky. 40253-0433, or call (502) 245-4101.

Family's church strong on missions

Pam, Shad and Shawna Baker's church—Chevy Chase Baptist in Lexington—is a wellspring of summer missionaries.

In addition to the Bakers' trips to Brazil, Utah and Oregon, Chevy Chase members are going to Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine and Arizona, and two others also are going to Brazil.

"Those are the ones we know about," says Pastor Mike Rogers. "I really don't know how many are going."

Rogers, a former foreign missionary himself, cites four reasons for the missions activity of the church:

- "A real movement of the Holy Spirit."
- Intercessory prayer.
- "We preach a gospel that asks people to deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Christ—not a comfortable, American gospel."
- A large number of Lexington college students "want to be disciplined and really follow Christ in meaningful life."

Missions becomes family affair for mom & 2 kids

Continued from page 1

Explains Pam: "The Lord has encouraged me to further my education. This is my opportunity to pay him back. I can't think of a better way to do that than as a missionary nurse."

And the challenge was attainable, says Shad: "So many people think it's beyond them, like you have to be pious or it's for the preacher to do. That's not true. Missions is for everyone."

"You can cook or clean or counsel with people," Shawna notes. "And there's not a talent too small but that you can't use it for the Lord," Pam adds.

The Bakers are entering their mission fields confidently, because they know people will be praying for them.

"The most important thing we did was enlist people to pray for us," Pam stresses.

That's not to say the process has been without its trials.

"It wouldn't be fair to say everything has been peachy," Shawna admits. "Satan knows where to hit you."

Her mother adds: "You know you're in a position to make a difference in someone's life, or Satan wouldn't fight you so hard."

And along the way, the Bakers hope they'll grow as Christian witnesses.

"People say we're a close family, but I feel I'm not as independent as

my peers are," Shawna notes. "This will give me confidence and courage."

Adds Shad: "I know I'm called into the ministry, but I'm not sure where. I've prayed God would use this summer to give me direction."

Meanwhile, Mother Pam is looking beyond their homecoming. "I'm concerned about our testimony concerning these trips. Every person who goes out to do missions is a door for someone else to follow behind. Their testimony can show that missions is for ordinary people—like us."

Barton to head Western hospital

PADUCAH—Larry Barton has been appointed president of Western Baptist Hospital, a 383-bed regional referral center in Paducah. Barton will begin his duties June 8.

His appointment was announced May 27 by the hospital's administrative board and Edgar Vaughn, president and chief executive officer of Baptist Healthcare System, which owns and operates four Baptist hospitals in Kentucky.

Barton, 48, has served 12 years as president and chief executive officer of Jefferson Regional Medical Center, a 475-bed regional medical facility in Pine Bluff, Ark. From 1972 to 1979, Barton was an administrator with Baptist Medical System, a 1,085-bed multi-hospital system based in Little Rock, Ark.

Barton is a member of First Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, where he serves as a deacon. He received a master of science degree in hospital administration from Trinity University and a bachelor of business administration degree from Memphis State University.



Plan to Attend the Youth Evangelism Conference '92

"Celebrate Christ"

June 19-20

Frankfort Civic Center

(Registration fee: \$3 per person)



TRUTH

FRIDAY EVENING

Theme: Celebrate Christ in Salvation

- 5:30* Doors open to Civic Center—registration begins in the lobby for those not pre-registered
- 7:00* Celebrate Christ Rally Begins
 - Kevin Landgrave and BEYOND: Praise Music and Musical Inspiration
 - Mark McClintock: Worship through Ventriloquism
 - TRUTH: One of America's Premier Christian Music Groups
 - Ike Reighard: Pastor and Youth Speaker

SATURDAY MORNING

Theme: Celebrate Christ in Living

- 9:00* Registration in lobby of Civic Center
- 9:30* Celebrate Christ Rally Continues
 - Kevin Landgrave and BEYOND
 - SonShare: BSU Drama Team
 - TRUTH
 - Ike Reighard

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Theme: Celebrate Christ in Witnessing

- 1:00* Celebrate Christ Rally Challenge
 - Kevin Landgrave and BEYOND
 - SonCelebration: BSU Music Team
 - TRUTH
 - Ike Reighard

* All listed times are Eastern Daylight Time



Mark McClintock & Company



Landgrave



Reighard

Sponsored by the Office for Evangelism • Kentucky Baptist Convention • Bill Jagers, Director

KENTUCKY

Carter urges graduates to help plight of the poor

Continued from page 1

he added: "I'll tell you this, and you won't like it, politicians do a lot more to end discrimination against the poor than churches do."

Politicians feel pressure to serve poor people, Carter explained.

"Where is the competition between the churches to alleviate the discrimination against the poor?" he asked. "How many of you, including me, know a genuinely poor person? We cannot afford to be complacent."

The Carter Center, a benevolence agency affiliated with his presidential library in Atlanta, has been responsible for immunizing children and feeding poor people around the globe, as well as monitoring elections in some of the world's most strife-ridden countries, he said.

"There's been a very self-congratulatory spirit for me," he confessed. "But six months ago, we began to ask what we're doing about the poor next door." Consequently, the center began to focus on "the other Atlanta the Chamber of Commerce doesn't want to talk about"—home of 500,000 poor people.

Carter reported visiting a junior high school and asking the principal about the greatest problems in her school. For boys, it was self-esteem and the subsequent "answer" of carrying semi-automatic weapons. For girls, it was pregnancy—even in the sixth grade, because "pimps and pushers want sex with little girls, they're cheaper, they're unable to defend themselves and they're less likely to have AIDS."

"It's a world we do not know, but it's a world by God, through Christ, we should know—intimately," he charged.

Although poor people often are stigmatized as "despicable, lazy, without vision," Carter said his relationship to them has proved otherwise.

Every year, he works alongside poor people through Habitat for Humanity, a home-building program for families with low incomes.

"They are just as intelligent and hard-working, and they love their kids as much as I do," Carter reported. "Just having a home they helped build transforms their lives."

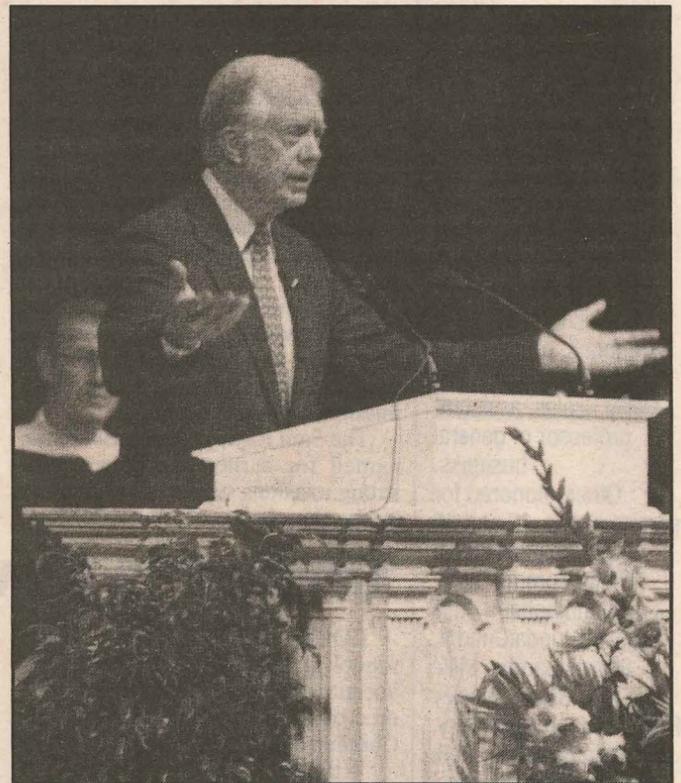
And such ministry to the poor also

can transform the Southern Baptist Convention, he insisted.

The SBC has been "treated as something of a joke," he reported, noting the convention, in many people's minds, is "equated with schism" rather than missions.

"We're not going to heal the rift among Southern Baptists through theological or philosophical debate," he said. "But all Baptists, regardless of ultra-conservatism or extreme liberalism, can find a common ground by dealing church-by-church, believer-by-believer, minister-by-minister with the poorest among us."

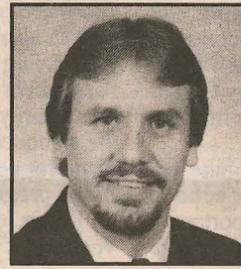
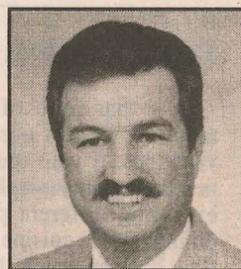
Carter was accompanied by his wife, Rosalynn. They are members of Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Ga., and their pastor, Dan Ariail, received a doctor of ministry degree during the ceremonies.



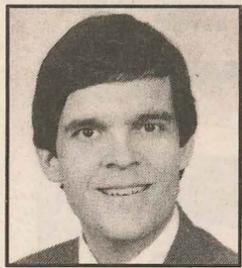
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS Former President Jimmy Carter addresses the graduating class of Southern Seminary, urging them to end discrimination of the world's rich people against poor people. (Photo by Richard Trigg)

These are the Kentucky graduates from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and its Boyce Bible School. Graduates included are those who provided both photos and information to the seminary for release.
DCM Diploma in Christian Ministry
MACE Master of Arts in Christian

Education
MDiv Master of Divinity
MDiv/CE Master of Divinity with emphasis in Christian Education
MCM Master of Church Music
MSW Master of Social Work
DMIn Doctor of Ministry
PhD Doctor of Philosophy



Eileen Bartlett
MACE, Louisville
David Banks
MDiv/CE, Lexington
Terry Burden
PhD, Madisonville



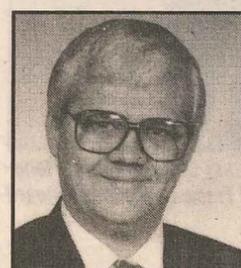
Tony Camp
MACE, Owensboro
Angela Clark
MACE, Clinton
Ron Foley
DCM, Louisville
Carl Gallion
MACE, Jenkins
Anthony Gilbert
MACE, Middlesboro
Joe Hammond
DCM, Louisville



Arthur Hardin
MDiv/CE, Louisville
David Hargrove
MDiv, Cadiz
Laura Harris
MDiv, Richmond
J.W. Hatfield
DCM, Shepherdsville
Robert Jolly
DMIn, Owensboro
Gary Keown
MDiv, Madisonville



Jenny Lowery
MDiv, Beaver Dam
Billy Luttrell
MCM, Harrodsburg
Rick Meade
MDiv, Hardinsburg
Susan Quisenberry
MDiv/CE, Lexington
Anthony Shults
MSW, Louisville
Samuel Smith
MACE, Louisville



Margaret Spragens
MDiv/CE, Lebanon
Maria Stotz
MCM, Lexington
Deborah Vincent
MACE, Bowling Green
Rebecca Wiley
MACE, Louisville
Erik Wilkins
MDiv/CE, Bowling Green
Howard Wilson
DMIn, Vanceburg

Rich Pond makes big impact in missions for small church

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

Campbellsville honors employees

CAMPBELLVILLE—Campbellsville College honored several faculty and staff members at a spring recognition service.

Two retirees were recognized: Jerry Kibbons, professor of Christian studies, and Harry Scalos, assistant professor of general business.

Others honored for service of five, 10 and 30 years included Harlie White, Tommy Clark, Lou Cunningham, Julie Caldwell, Linda Cundiff, Robert Gaddis, Mike O'Bryan, Wesley Roberts, Joan Stansbury, Harlan Bohanon, Beth Broome, Doug Broome, David Cundiff, Ron Finley, Arvin Franklin, Tammy Lawson, Phil Lee, Janet Miller and Bill Pennebaker.

BOWLING GREEN—Members of Rich Pond Baptist Church proved they can take the heat.

A year-long collection of mission funds at the church "took off like wildfire" and resulted in a mission trip in Brazil's 110-degree temperatures last March.

Pastor Bill Fort said the church had been involved in missions in Eastern Kentucky and became "enamored with the possibility of doing more missionary work."

The Sam Raymer Memorial Fund, named for a member who was a strong missions supporter, was set up by the church to raise money for mis-

sions projects.

The goal for the project was \$17,000, but the church eventually raised \$21,000.

That was enough to support 12 people on an overseas mission trip and to purchase building materials for a new church there.

"The response was phenomenal," Fort said. "The church will never be the same."

Although Fort admitted some of those 12 people might not have been able to go without the church's financial support, he was quick to point out that there were still other costs involved. Some team members used all their vacation time and all made family sacrifices, he said.

Jack Dempsey, one of the physi-

cians on the team, passed up the opportunity to attend a health care forum with the president of the United States because he had committed to the trip.

Rich Pond's team joined a larger group of 32 Kentucky Baptists in the effort. They were commissioned to build a church, lead revival services and treat physical illnesses.

The construction team spent about six days building the church structure, according to Mark Alcott, a law student and one of the team members. "The quality of the building was like a castle in the area," he said.

While the construction team worked on the church, the medical team treated 2,200 patients in a nearby makeshift clinic. Fort said they handled everything from routine chil-

dren's checkups to AIDS and leprosy cases, and even delivered one baby.

At the same time, revival services and Bible studies were conducted.

Worship in Vitoria is different than in America, Fort explained. "The pastor always keeps his coat on, no matter what the temperature. I remember one day it was 110 degrees and I was sweating through my tie."

Many people have asked how a small church like Rich Pond was able to succeed at such a costly venture. The church averages about 190 in Sunday school attendance.

"If God is calling you in a particular vision, God will provide," Fort said. "We've learned never to say no when God says yes, regardless of financial or other restrictions."

'Created to draw a masterpiece,' children's home grads told

LOUISVILLE—Seven high school graduates and five college or vocational school graduates were honored by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children at a banquet May 19.

William Crouch, president of Georgetown College, delivered the keynote address, encouraging the children's home residents to continue making something good of their lives.

"You have been created by God to draw a masterpiece with your life," he said. "Don't ever forget it."

Scott Shouse, continuing care coordinator for KBHC, echoed Crouch's challenge. "It is important to us that you find something you're

good at, something you enjoy. We want you to make it. I challenge you to find out what that something is and meet that goal."

Continuing care is a program to provide financial and emotional support for youths in agency care who choose to continue their education.

The agency also offers an independent living program, which teaches basic skills for self-support to Jefferson County youths in foster care. At the banquet, 38 youths were recognized for completing the independent living program.

Kevin Jenkins, who graduated this year from the continuing care pro-

gram, reminded the group that making good choices is important for successful independent living.

"All the problems you might have thought you left behind are still there," he said. "Choosing your friends—simple things like that are so important."

"When you do make mistakes, you just have to pick up the pieces and go on," he advised.

The five youths helped by Kentucky Baptists who graduated from college or vocational school this year are:

■ Tim Isaacs, who earned a degree in history from Georgetown College

and now serves as activities director at KBHC's Glen Dale campus.

■ Tracie Lewis, who earned a nursing degree from Spalding University and has worked at Humana University Hospital for the past year.

■ Nikki Martin, who earned a degree in travel and tourism from Sullivan College and hopes to obtain a position in the tourism industry.

■ Kevin Jenkins, who graduated from Tri-City Barber College and now works at Lyons Den II in south Louisville.

■ Lena Lindsey, who graduated from Donta School of Beauty and hopes to one day teach cosmetology.

KBHC: Caring through life's transition

Graduation brings with it a time of transition. With hard-earned degrees and job experience in hand, high school and college graduates embark on their future.

For youth who have not had the support of family, this is often a difficult time. That's why Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children extends its care through the continuing care program, designed to provide financial assistance and emotional support through the transition period of furthering their education through college and vocational

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Graduates of KBHC's Continuing Care program: Reneco Martin, Kevin Jenkins and Tracie Lewis look forward to a bright future.

training.

The unique program had its first graduate last year. Michelle Weaver Clark, who recently married and has found success in her on-the-job experience, has used her experiences at Glen Dale and in the continuing care program to make a difference in the lives of others. She now works as a therapist with Russell County Middle School students and their families.

Michelle's success in making the transition to independence is an inspiration to five graduates of the continuing care program in 1992. The program will graduate one with a nursing degree, one with a history degree, one with a degree in travel and tourism, and one from beauty school and one from barber's school. Several have already begun their careers.

Thank you for your support of these youths making the transition to adulthood. Every time they receive a phone call from Scott Shouse, our continuing care coordinator, it's as if you had made that call to them. When we help provide them with funds for college or school books and supplies, it is because you make that possible.

Our graduates are grateful for all you've given to make their education possible. If you'd like to know more about our commitment to children who want to continue their education and build a solid foundation for the future, we'd be happy to send a speaker.

Join me in sending congratulations to all our graduates at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Let's continue to lend our support to them as they face the future.

Curtis Mooney is president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Rd., Middletown, Ky. 40243.

Paid Column

Come cruise with us

It's that time of year when many of us turn our thoughts to vacations. If your dream vacation is relaxing on sun-splashed decks, exploring different ports of call, dining on fine cuisine and then settling back to watch the sun set on the sea's horizon, the Baptist Healthcare Foundation has just the vacation for you.

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

On September 26, Friends of the Baptist Healthcare Foundation will set sail for a seven-day Caribbean cruise on one of the most elegant ships afloat—the Sovereign of the Seas. It's a cruise that combines exciting ports of call, including stops at San Juan, Labadee and St. Thomas, with fun and relaxation at sea. We'll also have free optional seminars on health-related matters, as well as a daily Bible study for those who wish to participate. Proceeds from the cruise will be applied to charity care.

The cruise is moderately priced—\$1,195 for an inside cabin and \$1,330 for an outside cabin. Cost includes round trip air transportation to Miami from Louisville, Lexington or Evansville; transfers and baggage handling; port charges; and all meals aboard ship. For a brochure outlining all

the cruise features, call the Foundation at (502) 896-5003.

We hope you'll be able to join us for this Caribbean cruise. When you're traveling with friends, there's nothing like a cruise and this one promises fun, fellowship and vacation memories guaranteed to please every traveler.



WORLD'S LARGEST Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's new Sovereign of the Seas sails past El Morro Castle, San Juan. The 2,282-passenger luxury ship sails from Miami every Saturday, calling at Labadee, San Juan and Saint Thomas.

Any questions or comments concerning this article, Baptist Healthcare System or Baptist Healthcare Foundation should be directed to Charles W. Cox Jr., president of Baptist Healthcare Foundation, Corporate Complex, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, Ky. 40207 (502) 896-5003.

Paid Column

Religious liberty 'changed everything,' Kazakh says

By Amanda Hiley Jenkins
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Religious freedom has "changed everything beyond recognition," a leader of Baptists in Kazakhstan said while visiting in Kentucky last month.

Viktor Gorelav, superintendent of Baptists in the former Soviet republic,

was among 25 musicians, business leaders and religious leaders visiting Kentucky May 10-25. The group included a chamber orchestra from the city of Alty-Alma, which played in several Kentucky Baptist churches.

The delegation visiting Kentucky was part of a larger group of 300 Kazakhs visiting the United States in a cultural exchange sponsored by the

Central Asia Foundation, which has ties to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Last year, 300 Americans traveled to Kazakhstan in the first part of the cultural exchange. In both cases, visiting guests lived with local families to get a feel for the host country's lifestyle.

Gorelav is pastor of a Baptist church of 1,200 members in Alma-Ata. Under communist rule, he was expelled from graduate school and eventually lost his job as a veterinarian in 1976 because of being a Christian.

Though he is highly educated, Gorelav had to do hard labor in a manufacturing plant for 15 years because he was a Christian.

He became a deacon (similar to an American associate pastor) in 1972 and then became a pastor in 1976.

The fall of communism and the introduction of religious freedom has changed the persecution he once knew, Gorelav said: "Sunday schools can be held for small children, and a lot of young people come to church. Young people visit nursing homes, hospitals and handicapped persons. They even hold worship services in the palaces of culture."

Churches in Kazakhstan have many of the same ministries as churches in the U.S., such as jail and resort ministries and the distribution of tracts and Bibles, he explained.

But different religious groups

learned they had to help each other when they did not have freedom, he added.

"There is still a lot of interacting," Gorelav said. "We still help each other by working together in nursing homes and hospitals. Different religious groups cooperated to stop nuclear testing in Kazakhstan."

Traveling in Kentucky with Gorelav were Archbishop Vladyka Aleksii of the Russian Orthodox Church and Dusenbek Nakipov, a Muslim lay leader.

Nakipov also is a poet and ballet dancer. He organized the anti-nuclear movement which included a unified effort of different religious groups.

Even before the fall of communism, people of different beliefs banded together and successfully stopped open-air nuclear bomb testing that had been going on in Kazakhstan for 50 years.

And despite repression, the church survived 70 years of communism, Archbishop Aleksii said. "In spite of this, the Spirit breathes anyway, and God is taking care of his sons and daughters constantly."

Today, economic crisis is the major threat to Kazakhs, the religious leaders reported.

"We are allowed to build churches now, but there are no finances and no construction materials," Gorelav said.

"When American friends come and see with their own eyes, they will have an idea of what needs there are," Nakipov added. "Communication is a form of humanitarian aid."

As a result of last year's festival, Americans gave \$12 million in humanitarian aid to Kazakhstan through various non-profit organizations.

WORLD VIEW

■ **Spanish Baptists** in Madrid recently hung banners proclaiming Jesus Christ as "the way for culture to follow" on the entrance of a theater and distributed evangelistic tracts to draw people to a service there. One young Baptist handed a tract to a man distributing invitations of his own—to a topless bar. After the two talked, the man agreed to attend the evangelistic service, where he made a public profession of Jesus Christ as Savior.

■ **Dozens of European** Baptist churches have volunteered to care for children from the region affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident. And more offers arrive almost daily—enough to care for 1,000 or more children for a month. Scientists say even brief periods away from the radiation area can help about 25 million children there who have not developed radiation-related illnesses.

■ **Some Cuban Baptists** have called on Baptists in the United States to pray for Cuba's 11 million people, "who long to live in peace." A pastoral letter sent from three Cuban churches to U.S. Baptists urges them to "hear the cry of our Cuban people and intercede in favor of peace." It also calls for lifting the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba.

■ **A recent Gallup poll** indicates Protestant Christianity is gaining on Buddhism in South Korea. But Catholics, with fewer members, are growing faster than both Protestants and Buddhists. In the last five years Catholics have increased nearly 25 percent, compared to about 12 percent for Protestants and 11 percent for Buddhists.

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KENTUCKY KERNELS

The first recorded convert among Baptists in Kentucky and the first person baptized by Baptists in Kentucky was a woman, Susannah Cash. She became a Christian in 1783, shortly after moving to Kentucky with her husband, who later became a Christian as well.

Source: "Baptists in Kentucky, 1776-1976."

Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **BARBOURVILLE**—Lovell Missionary Church called **Reed Murphy** as pastor.

■ **BENTON**—New Zion Church celebrates its 100th anniversary June 28.

■ **BRANDENBURG**—**Danny Haynes** is pastor of New Brandenburg Church.

■ **CLOSPINT**—**Bill Collett** is pastor of Clospint Church.

■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—**Dennis Coffey** resigned as pastor of Laurel Chapel.

■ **EUBANK**—**Roy Alexander** resigned from Good Hope Church.

■ **FRAZER**—New Salem Church called **Marshall Sloan** of Campbellsville as pastor.

■ **GRAYSON**—**Jerry Traylor**, pastor of Wolf Creek Church for nine years and longtime associational discipleship training director in Greenup Association, died May 19 of a massive heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Judy, his son, James Wayne, his daughter, Tammy Clark, and three grandchildren. He was 52 years old.

■ **HAZARD**—Lothair Church called **Bob Finch** as interim pastor.

■ **JEFF**—**Steve Haddix** is pastor of Jeff Church.

■ **JEFFERSONTOWN**—**Keith Click** is associate pastor and children's ministry coordinator at Jeffersontown Church.

■ **JENKINS**—First Church called

Carl Gallion as pastor. He previously served Lake Dreamland Church in Louisville.

■ **LONDON**—**Terry Roberts** is pastor of South Fariston Church.

■ **MANCHESTER**—**Taylor Hampton** has resigned as pastor of Pleasant Grove Church.

■ **MONTICELLO**—Elk Spring Valley Church honored **Albert McKinney** for 25 years in the ministry.

■ **MT. VERNON**—**Steve Weaver** resigned as pastor of Copper Creek Church.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **Eugene and Ellamae Elder**, missionary associates to South Africa, are in the States. Elder is a native of Louisville. They may be addressed at 1195 Dyer, Memphis, Tenn. 38122.

Kentuckian leaves Southeastern for Methodist school

WAKE FOREST, N.C.—**Michael Hawn**, a former Kentucky Baptist now on the faculty of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, has accepted a faculty position with Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology in Dallas.

Hawn will be a tenured associate professor of sacred music, beginning with the fall semester. He will teach church music education, hymnody, worship and choral music.

He has taught church music at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., since 1982.

In Kentucky, Hawn was instructor, assistant professor and adjunct professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville for seven years. He also was minister of music at Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville and a music chaplain at the LaGrange State Reformatory in LaGrange.

He has served other churches in Kentucky, Georgia and North Carolina. He also was a visiting professor of worship at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va., this spring.

Hawn has participated in music missions efforts in Nigeria, Kenya, Cuba and Haiti and plans a mission trip to Nicaragua this summer.

He is a graduate of Wheaton College and earned the master of church music and doctor of musical arts degrees from Southern Seminary.

"I plan to remain a Baptist and offer a Baptist perspective in an ecumenical, though predominantly United Methodist, environment," Hawn said of his new position.

He and his wife, Collyn, have two children, Aaron and Lindsay.

Influential layman dies in Elizabethtown

ELIZABETHTOWN—**Leslie Langley**, an Elizabethtown pediatrician and active layman at Severns Valley Baptist Church, died April 10 after a long battle against cancer.

Langley, a deacon and Sunday school teacher, had been an active church member for 30 years, said Pastor Howard Cobble. Langley was instrumental in starting the Northside mission and in developing the Hardin/Laure County jail ministry.

"He was an outspoken Christian who always spoke with good taste and compassion," but he always found a way to share the love of Christ with his patients, Cobble said. "He was one of the most effective and articulate Christians I've ever met."

Langley claimed serving as physician at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center one week was a formative factor in his Christian experience. He later volunteered for short-term mission trips to Nigeria and Brazil.

Langley is survived by his wife Lou, four children and five grandchildren. He was 68 years old.

Growing in favor with God and man

The first 10 students to be individually honored at the commencement exercises were selected in a secret ballot of the faculty and staff after six hours of discussion. Each was honored for having made the most progress overall in his or her grade level during the year. Character and personality development are important factors for consideration, as well as academic progress, participation in extracurricular activities and developing good work habits.

Jerry Boblett of Lawrenceburg led the way. He is a muscular sixth-grader with a quiet dignity and much depth. He was raised in a single-parent home. Quietly determined, he has caught the vision of eventually getting a college education. He was the youngest member of our varsity wrestling team that won the Class A state championship this year.

Stefano Ximenes came to us in the seventh grade having been born and raised in Brazil, the son of a Brazilian doctor and an American mother who is the daughter of foreign missionaries. He knew little English but speaks beautifully now. His great-grandmother, **Sadie Morris**, was Oneida's secretary my freshman year.

Michael Underwood received the eighth grade honor. He also received it his sixth-grade year. He is a second generation Oneidian, his parents having first met while students at Oneida.

The freshman progress award was shared by two boys whose growth in every way has been simply amazing. **Chris Byers** is the youngest of three sons from Albany raised by their mother alone. He so begged to come last summer that we let him though we had no summer school for middle-schoolers. He made As and Bs all summer and ranked so high on our entrance test at the start of the school year that we put him on into ninth grade where he has been an honor-roll

student. **Chris** became involved in sports, was active on the high school academic team and eager to learn.

Mike Summers came to us from Mt. Washington two years ago. He was raised by an uncle and aunt. Not athletic, he nevertheless has been on the cross country, wrestling and varsity track teams both his eighth- and ninth-grade years. In the process he has run off 120 excess pounds. He also has become an honor-roll student.

The sophomore award went to **Jeremy Crowson** who came to us from Huntsville, Ala., having failed his sophomore year. He became motivated and ended the year with an A- average.

Jeff Smith came to us from Russell Springs. He has a wonderful talent in art and has been selected to be a Governor's Scholar to study at Centre College this summer.

Sharing junior progress honors with **Jeff** was **Angela Greenwood** of Winchester. She, like so many, came to us with a rather rebellious attitude. She is the very opposite now, always ready to help others and assume responsibility. She tutors, then works extra in the dining room just because she wants to.

Sharing the senior progress award was **Nathan Edge** of Fordsville. He came to us in the seventh grade and also received the progress award his sophomore year. Despite many difficulties, he continued to grow. One of our hardest workers, he was a mainstay on our farm crew.

The other senior progress award went to **Mike Baker**. A dropout for several years, he was brought to us three years ago by a former student from Louisville. His mother died when he was quite young and he lived many different places. Now he is off to college with a full scholarship. That's progress.

Barkley Moore is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

A time to say goodbye

"To everything there is a season ... a time to weep and a time to laugh." Senior Tea at Clear Creek is a time for both. This 25-year tradition provides senior wives an opportunity to reflect on God's provision through their student years.

Lisa Brooks learned "how to laugh and not take life too seriously" as she and her husband found "God can be counted on."

Both **Marcia Evans** and **Teresa Purichia** related the financial difficulty of leaving a home

unsold when they entered Clear Creek. Into their second year before their house sold, **Marcia** said, "Events may seem unreasonable, but are not unscriptural; it's all been according to God's plan." **Teresa** remembered how a \$600 house payment and no income often resulted in no groceries, "but God supplied every need." Her family survived three floods but was overwhelmed with the "flood of campus families who came to help clean up."

"MasterLife and Ministers' Wives Class helped me cope with a miscarriage shortly after our arrival," said **Shannon Wade**.

Yevanna Foley, whose household goods were destroyed by fire, praised God that "although we lost a lot, we gained much more at Clear Creek."

Three wives found leaving

home and all they'd known created major adjustments. **Joy Whicker** visited the campus on Monday and her husband began studies on Wednesday! **Joy** determined "to make myself love Clear Creek," but added, "I didn't have to make myself; God gave me love for this place and replaced in abundance all I thought I'd lost." **Julie Andy**, the youngest senior spouse, told humorous accounts of her first time away from home. "We didn't have hot water for three days because we didn't know we had to light the pilot light on the water heater!" she recalled. **Carol Coffey**, whose husband returned to update his degree, first arrived as an 18-year-old wife on a depressing rainy day when the creek was muddy. "God," she said, "the creek isn't even clear and the name of the place is Clear Creek! Surely if you

were ever indecisive about anything, it's this time. But God confirmed time and again this is where he wanted us."

As others reminisced and tearfully said goodbye to friends who had shared special times in their lives, they all agreed one of the hardest times is the time to say goodbye.

Shelby Castlen is the president's secretary at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. 40977

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Shelby Castlen

Paid Column

PRAYER

FULANI LIFESTYLE A Fulani man (right) carefully prints by hand a section of the Koran, Islam's holy book, which he teaches to young people in his Nigerian village. Nigerian veterinarian Femi Adewumi (below) examines the livestock of a Fulani cattleman. Adewumi works closely with Southern Baptist missionary Ron Holcomb. (BP photos by Don Rutledge)



Missionaries challenged by hard-to-reach Fulani

By Donald Martin
SBC Foreign Mission Board

JOS, Nigeria (BP)—Ron Holcomb was having one of those days.

Holcomb, a Southern Baptist agricultural missionary from Denton, Texas, had planned to inoculate cattle at a Fulani camp in the cool plateau region of central Nigeria. But before Holcomb and the mission's veterinary team had unloaded their gear from their truck, a shouting cattleman confronted them.

In a matter of seconds, what started out as a chance to expand Holcomb's Fulani ministry deteriorated into a missionary's nightmare.

The Fulani cattleman was upset because Holcomb and the team refused to break up a set of inoculations to sell just one of them.

"It seemed he was mad at us from the start," Holcomb said. "He would throw his hands in the air and shout, 'Why do we have to buy all this? We only want the one shot. That's what we want! These men are here just to take our money.'"

Yet Holcomb had no choice but to follow government guidelines requiring all private veterinary programs to administer a series of inoculations at a set price.

Fulani are often suspicious of outsiders' motivations. But this was the most aggressive attack Holcomb or his wife, Karen, had encountered in their first year of full-time Fulani evangelism.

After a tense discussion, the cattleman eventually quieted down as others explained to him the Baptist team had been invited. Some of the Fulani had seen the agriculturist work the previous day on their neighbors' cattle.

Before starting to work, Holcomb began his customary explanation of who he and his team were and asked if they could pray. The Fulani are predominantly Muslim but they usually

welcome all prayers.

"I began like always," he recalls. "But when I said we were doing this in the name of Jesus Christ, that just set it off. Everything fell apart."

The angry Fulani's rage exploded into a new tongue-lashing. The indignation spread. Other Fulani joined in and started arguing.

"I didn't know what to do," Holcomb said. "I stood by the truck and tried to maintain my cool. People were arguing everywhere. My team was upset. The Fulani were upset. Everyone was shouting. And then the cows started to die."

Within 15 minutes, two cows dropped dead in the field. The crowd hushed; the loss of even one cow is a blow. A Fulani cattleman's wealth is measured by the size of his herd.

The Baptist team had not yet treated any of the cattle, so no one blamed them for having "bad medicine." Femi Adewumi, 28, the mission's veterinarian, examined the fallen cows and found they had died from internal parasites that can be treated with one of the vaccines the angry cattleman did not want.

Holcomb and his team eventually treated all the cattle that day, but it left them drained and disheartened.

When Holcomb began work among the Fulani in 1989, he was sure his concern for animals and his training in agriculture and livestock management equipped him to befriend the Fulani. He felt he had the right tools to reach one of the world's least-evangelized people groups.

Yet after months of faltering attempts at building relationships, Holcomb knew something was missing. His efforts to share Christ met with little success.

He isn't the first missionary perplexed by the elusive Fulani. They have traditionally been a nomadic people, making it difficult for outsiders to develop long-term relationships.

Small bands of Fulani have wandered throughout western Africa with their cattle for centuries.

Southern Baptists have worked with the Fulani more than 30 years. The late Hattie Gardner devoted much of her 38 years as a missionary to Fulani work near the Benin border. After Gardner's retirement in

1973, Paul and Faye Burkwall continued the work. In 1983 they began the first church in Nigeria with Fulani-language services.

Other groups' Fulani ministries preceded Southern Baptist work. More than 100 Protestant and Catholic missionaries work full-time among the Fulani. Yet of the 10 to 14 million Fulani in some 18 African countries, only a few thousand are Christians.

Most Fulani are Muslim. Some mix superstition and Islamic law to form "folk Islam." Whatever form their Islamic beliefs take, it maintains a firm hold.

In recent years, fissures have appeared in this once-impenetrable identity. Several Christian groups have reported upturns in the number of Fulani believers.

Christians who work with the Fulani say social and economic changes

threaten their way of life. Years of drought and Africa's rapid population rise have demanded more land for crops, cutting into range land Fulani depend on for their cattle.

Two years ago a young Fulani man stepped into the Holcombs' lives and transformed their ministry. A Baptist high school graduate suggested they seek advice from his cousin, Daniel Dama, 25, a third-generation Christian Fulani considering entering the Baptist Pastors' School in Kaduna.

"God knew exactly who we needed to help us," Holcomb said. "Here was somebody who knew how to reach the Fulani. He took us under his wing, even though he's 10 years younger than we are."

Dama wasn't shy about citing the Holcombs' lapses in protocol and etiquette after each Fulani camp visit. For a start, Dama explained, anyone with manners would squat 10 to 20 yards from a camp and call out his greetings. To walk into a camp without a casual yet lengthy exchange of greetings was barbaric.

Many barriers remain. The persecution of a new Fulani Christian usually drives that person from his or her village. The chance to speak from one's heart about Christ to a loved one is severed.

When Hassan Adamu, 30, told his family he had become a Christian, they drove him out and stripped him of his cattle. His father promised to shoot him if he returned as a Christian.

Yet Adamu sees his life as similar to Joseph's in the Old Testament. "Like Joseph, I was thrown into the well by my brothers," he said. "Some day I may be able to help my family by giving them Christ."

Adamu's family has promised him the return of his cattle if he will forget about Jesus. But Adamu said that's not possible. The joy of the Lord is much better than his parents' blessings, he explained.



CELEBRATION Fulani women prepare food for a baby-naming ceremony in the village of Sabon Gari, Nigeria. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

During the Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization this week, Southern Baptists are urged to pray for west Africa's Fulani (pronounced foo-lahn—ee) people. The day of prayer begins at 6 p.m., Friday, June 5, and ends at 6 p.m., Saturday, June 6. Just before Pentecost Sunday each year, the Foreign Mission Board calls Southern Baptists to join other Christians worldwide in praying for a people group virtually unreached with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This year's people group—the world's largest nomadic society of between 10 to 14 million people—has searched for water and grazing land for their cattle for centuries. Their search has dispersed them among 18 African countries.

Challenge keeps mission wheels turning

By Brenda Sanders
Midwestern Seminary

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Tom Eggley put more personal effort into his church's gift to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions than perhaps any other pastor in the nation.

Eggley, pastor of Towerview Baptist Church in Belleville, Ill., is a cycling enthusiast who enjoys combining his love of sports with creative missions and outreach efforts.

He brought the two together when he challenged his congregation to raise \$1,800 for the home missions offering. If church members met their goal, Eggley said, he would take the offering to the Home Mission Board in Atlanta—riding his bike.

The church enthusiastically accepted their pastor's challenge and surpassed their goal, raising \$2,092.

After Sunday morning worship April 26, church deacons formed a circle around the pastor and prayed for his safety. Then Eggley rode off on his red 12-speed bike, beginning the six-day, 600-mile trip to Atlanta.

Three members of the church's Christian Cycling Club, including Eggley's daughter, Pam, rode along with him the first day. When he stopped for the night at Chester, Ill., club members bid him good-bye and returned to Belleville.

Throughout the journey, his parents, Lee and Mildred Eggley, accompanied him in a van.

Eggley stayed away from major highways as much as possible, riding about 100 miles per day, drinking "lots of GatorAid," eating pretzels for carbohydrates and bananas for potassium.

Along the way, he spoke at several churches about missions and stayed in the homes of Baptists who wanted to support his cause.

On the evening of May 1, Eggley rode into Atlanta and delivered his church's Annie Armstrong offering to Bob Banks, HMB executive vice president.

"I was relieved and happy to get the mission accomplished," Eggley said. "I know it may seem like a crazy thing, but I like to do crazy things! I felt it was a good way to promote interest in the missions offering."

Towerview Baptist Church secretary Connie Henschel said Eggley encourages the congregation to be "missions-minded."

"He likes to promote physical, as well as spiritual, improvement and growth," Henschel said. "He tells us to take care of ourselves so we will be better able to be personally involved in missions and ministry."

Eggley has cycled to the Illinois Baptist State Association's Springfield, Ill., headquarters to deliver the church's annual state missions offering for the past several years.

He organized the Belleville congregation's Christian Cycling Club more than a year ago for fellowship and outreach.

School sues over abortion literature

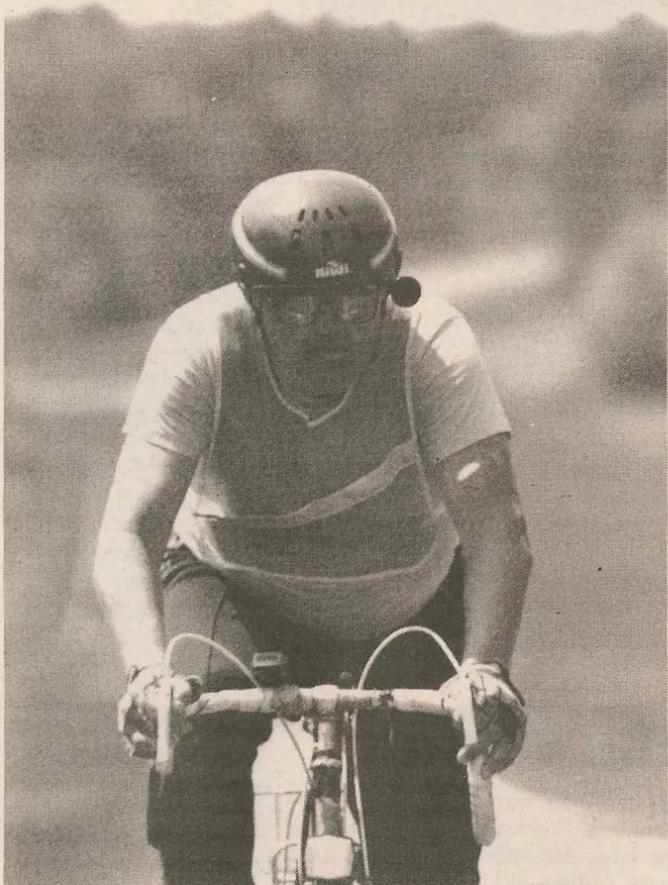
PLANO, Texas (EP)—A Texas school district has gone to court to stop a 14-year-old girl from distributing literature with graphic anti-abortion messages at her school.

The Plano Independent School District filed a complaint against Jamie Tellier and her father April 28.

According to the complaint, Tellier's distribution of the anti-abortion literature during non-classroom time upset some students and disrupted some classrooms by causing student discussions on the literature.

The school district alleges Tellier's conduct risks offending her fellow students, many of whom are "on the threshold of awareness of human sexuality and reproduction."

"We find it troubling that the school district's position is that this material is sexually and age-inappropriate because the students are on the 'threshold of sexual awareness,'" said Doug Fletcher, a Rutherford Institute attorney defending Tellier. "With regard to the school district's promulgation of the AIDS awareness curriculum, it is alleged that the same students are sexually active and far beyond the 'threshold of sexual awareness.'"



ON THE ROAD Tom Eggley rides his bicycle to Atlanta to deliver his church's gift to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

Correspondent talks about faith

HOUSTON (BP)—The idea of "Christian ministry" is a redundancy, Time magazine's senior foreign correspondent told a Houston Baptist University audience. David Aikman, who has worked as Time bureau chief in Moscow, Beijing, West Berlin and Jerusalem, said all Christians are in ministry as a result of their salvation. "I believe the Lord called me to journalism and I am constantly telling others of my Christian faith," Aikman said at the Baptist school. An evangelical Christian since age 21, Aikman told of instances when he felt an angelic or supernatural security in assignments in heavily guarded former Soviet territories, Vietnam and other hot spots. At times in dangerous situations, he said, he was shuffled away at just the right moment or taken in by a compassionate family.

Boy Scouts may exempt atheists

CHICAGO (EP)—The government cannot compel the Boy Scouts of America to admit atheists into local troops, U.S. District Judge Ilana Rovnew ruled.

Rovnew found that the Boy Scouts are not a "public accommodation" as defined by the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The decision came in a lawsuit which had been filed in behalf of Mark Welsh, now age 9, of Hinsdale, Ill. Welsh had been barred from a local Scout troop for refusing to recite the Scout oath, which includes a promise to do one's "duty to God."

Church unemployment exemption upheld

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to hear a challenge to a New York labor law that exempts religious organizations from providing unemployment insurance for workers.

By refusing to review the case, the high court upheld the constitutionality of the exemption.

The exemption was challenged by Shirley Klein, a former English teacher at Beth Jacob High School in Brooklyn, a school for Orthodox Jewish girls.

Klein began receiving unemployment benefits after being terminated in 1987, but when the school objected, she was ruled ineligible and ordered to repay \$4,140 in benefits she had received.

The New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, rejected Klein's arguments that the exemption serves no secular purpose, favors religious schools over non-religious schools, and creates undue and excessive entanglement between church and state.

In upholding the statute, the appeals court noted that while one effect of the statute is to allow religious organizations the economic benefit of avoiding unemployment insurance payments, "such a benefit is incidental and does not deprive the exemption, as a whole, of its secular purpose and effect."

When enacted, the statute exempted a range of non-profit religious, charitable, scientific, literary and edu-

cational organizations, but many of these exemptions later were eliminated when the statute was amended to conform to federal tax law changes.

Noting that the exemption still applies to some non-religious employers, the appeals court said "it cannot be said that it is aimed exclusively or specifically at religious groups or organizations or that it impermissibly benefits religious organizations more."

The appeals court also said the exemption creates less entanglement between church and state than would be required if the exemption were not provided.

The appeals court also rejected Klein's arguments that the statute violated her equal-protection rights.

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